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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

JANUARY 30, 2024

9:00 AM Review Meeting Minutes January 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 2024
9:15 AM Public Comment Period
9:30 AM Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Therapeutic Courts Fund 143
9:45 AM Discussion-Superior Court Staffing-Dennis Rabidou, Judge Grim
10:30 AM Discussion-VSP Workgroup Applications-Okanogan Conservation District Taylor George
11:00 AM Public Hearing-Utility Franchise 04-23-Chelan County PUD Powerlines
11:15 AM Discussion-County WATV Roads-Josh Thomson & WA Department of Fish & Wildlife
11:45 AM Update-Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson
1:30 PM Discussion-Letter of Approval Low-Income Housing Planning Grant (CLIHP)-OCCAC
Rena Shawver
2:30 PM Update-Sheriff's Equipment and Coroner's Storage Building-Mike Worden
3:00 PM Approve Meeting Minutes January 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 2024
3:30 PM Approve Consent Agenda

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on January 30, 2024 with Chairman, Commissioner Jon Neal; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Chris Branch; and Deputy Clerk of the Board Cameron Burnette, present.

AV Capture and Zoom provided audio and video accessibility for public interaction.

Review Meeting Minutes January 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 2024

Commissioners reviewed meeting minutes for the above-mentioned days, and directed the Deputy Clerk to make some corrections.

Public Comment Period

Katie; Isabelle Spohn, VIA Zoom

Commissioner Neal opened up public comment, seeing no one in the room he asked Ms. Katie if she had any comment, she did not, just here to observe.

Commissioner Hover noted he will not be here next Tuesday, February 6th, 2024.

Commissioner Neal asked Ms. Spohn, who joined at 9:24 am, if she had any comment, she stated she is very against the new Navy flight zone and the flight levels, and feels they should absolutely not fly over wilderness areas, as it disturbs the wildlife.

Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Therapeutic Courts Fund 143

Isabelle Spohn

Commissioner Neal opened up the public comment period, asking Ms. Spohn if she had any comment, she did not. Seeing no other members of the public he opened it up to staff comment, seeing no members of the staff he opened it up for discussion amongst Commissioners, Commissioner Hover noticed there was some wording issues with fund decrease/increase and checked with Clerk of the Board Ms. Johns to have her make necessary changes.

55 **Motion-Resolution 16-2024 Budget Supplemental Appropriation Therapeutic Court Fund 143**
56 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Budget Supplemental Appropriation for Therapeutic
57 Courts Fund 143 in the amount of \$109,000, motion seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

58
59 Commissioner Branch had to leave for a dentist appointment.

60
61 **Discussion-Superior Court Staffing**

62 Dennis Rabidou, Judge Grim arrived at 9:51 am, as he was on the bench.

63
64 Mr. Rabidou gave an update about staffing within Superior Court, they have 2 opened positions,
65 judicial assistants, they've had 14 applicants, 3 interviews but did not find any qualified applicants. He
66 asked to move one of those staff into the JA II position, from a JA I, she is qualified and competent,
67 she has done extremely well and has stepped up to keep the courts running. The impact is 2,313, but
68 would have no impact on the overall budget. Commissioner Hover asked what the percentage is, as
69 there is a 5% clause in policy in place on promotions. Overall Commissioners did support doing that.
70 The other thing was during budget discussions in 2023, instead of having the bailiff with a stipend,
71 they would change it to Family Dependency Coordinator to have the stipend, it is reimbursed through
72 the CJTA grant. Commissioner Neal clarified that there would be no pay decrease, as the bailiff
73 position is vacant.

74
75 Now for Juvenile courts, it's a national problem to fill positions for JC, detention is down 1 FTD, they
76 have interviews coming up to hopefully fill it, and on the court services side there is 5 open positions,
77 which are Union positions, which covers probation and dependency. The qualifications the state
78 requires makes it a very difficult position to fill, and they are being outpaced by other agencies that
79 have the money to make their positions more appealing. They are making progress in the courts, but
80 are not totally out of the weeds. Judge Grim stated that Judge Burke couldn't make it as she is at
81 Judicial College, but will be brought up to have a meet and greet once she is back.

82 Mr. Rabidou would get resolutions written up and sent up to Ms. Johns for next weeks consent agenda.

83
84 **Approve Meeting Minutes January 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 2024**

85 Commissioner Hover moved to approve meeting minutes from January 17th, 22nd, and 23rd,
86 Commissioner Branch was out at an appointment, motion seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

87
88 **Approve Consent Agenda**

89 Commissioner Hover moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Branch was
90 absent, Commissioner Neal seconded, all in favor, motion carried to approve all items; 1-6, of the
91 Consent Agenda.

- 92 1. Cattleguard Franchise Renewals-Brian Nelson CGF# N-64, Annie Sackman CGF# N-121, Gebbers
93 Farms Inc. CGF# 01-14, Joe & Deb Poulin CGF# 6-73, Spear Family LLLP CGF# 61-73, Spear
94 Family LLLP CGF# 63-73, Spear Family LLLP CGF# N-207, Spear Family LLLP CGF# 62-73,
95 Maurice Joy CGF# 4-82, Treebeard CGF# 18-82, Treebeard CGF# 1-86, James Tupling CGF# 4-76,
96 Townsend Bros LLC CGF# 4-79, Townsend Bros LLC CGF# 100-73, Townsend Bros CGF# 6-76
- 97 2. Purchase Approval-Traffic Striping Materials-Alpine Products, Inc.
- 98 3. ARPA Request #8-Economic Alliance-EA-2-2022
- 99 4. Resolution 8-2021-Reclassify Permit Tech-Building Dept
- 100 5. Resolution 14-2024-Signing Authority to Chief Corrections Deputy
- 101 6. Resolution 15-2024-Signing Authority to Chief Criminal Deputy

102
103 **Discussion-VSP Workgroup Applications-Okanogan Conservation District**

104 Taylor George, Craig Nelson VIA Zoom

105
106 Ms. George submitted the VSP Work Group Application, and is the new VSP Coordinator for the
107 Conservation District, and had moved over from the Noxious Weed Department after 3 years of

108 working there. They have received 2 work group applications, it's an advisory group to the advisory
109 program. There are 7 open positions on this group, the Cattleman's, Farm Bureau, and at large, Farm
110 and at large are the two applications they received. Rob Inlow applied for the at large position, and
111 Adam Scott Lange put in for the Farm Bureau position. Commissioner Hover stated they are in favor
112 of both of these applicants, and would have Ms. Johns draft up letters/resolutions to get these
113 gentlemen in these positions. Mr. Nelson stated they would need some approval actions by the
114 Commissioners.

115

116 Commissioner Branch returned from his appointment at 10:50 am.

117

118 **Public Hearing-Utility Franchise 04-23-Chelan County PUD Powerlines**

119 Katie, member of the public, Engineer Josh Thomson, Environmental Coordinator Jo Ann Stansbury

120

121 Commissioner Neal opened up the Public Hearing to staff, Ms. Stansbury started, stating they had
122 posted the notice in 3 places, there was no public comments and no further discussion they had
123 regarding this. Commissioner Neal closed to staff, opened to public, Katie had no comment, closed to
124 public, opened to discussion amongst BOCC, no discussion.

125

126 **Motion-Utility Franchise Agreement 04-23 Chelan County PUD Powerlines**

127 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Utility Franchise Agreement #04-23 Chelan County PUD
128 Powerlines, motion seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

129

130 **Update-Public Works**

131 Engineer Josh Thomson, Solid Waste Director Kent Kovalenko

132

133 Mr. Thomson opened, stating they have made changes to weight restrictions, all roads were changed
134 besides 6. He then covered State legislative changes, regarding county roads, Senate Bill 61-43 that
135 makes changes to riparian restriction changes. The small engines bill is not moving, the traffic camera
136 bill has a lot of changes, making it very cumbersome. Senate bill 60-40, regarding small businesses,
137 there are requirements that are not possible for the county to regulate, and we have no legal authority
138 in.

139

140 Mr. Kovalenko opened with legislative updates, HB 21-44 is written poorly, he doesn't feel it will pass,
141 and they need to work with Commercial Haulers, the changes would cause issues with aluminum
142 recycling that have worked well for over 30 years. HB 23-01 is a new organics bill, it cleans up 17-99,
143 it eliminates curbside populations from 25,000 to 50,000, it will affect 6 counties, and with our
144 population and the apple maggot quarantine we will still be exempt. He will follow up in two weeks
145 regarding legislative updates. Right now, there are 7 different meat cutters and slaughterers that don't
146 have a place to send their renderings and oils. The reduction of organics in the landfill will affect their
147 revenue. On grants, he will look into bringing in a grant writer and wants to get more aggressive on
148 applying for those grants, such as the Community Change Grant which is a federal grant, also the
149 Public Works Trust Fund, 5 or 6 counties are underserved and depressed, and it's a discounted grant
150 that would help us to build a new facility in Ellisford. Public health was going to have a meeting with
151 DNR that will be smoke related in February. The director of the EPA was planning on being there, and
152 would like at least one of the Commissioners to be there.

153

154 **Discussion-County WATV Roads-Josh Thomson & WA Department of Fish & Wildlife**

155 Engineer Josh Thomson, Brock Hanes Regional Director WDFW, Brandon Troiler Lands Management
156 Position, Habitat Biologist Malorie Heuler, Sgt. McCormick WDFW, Member of WATV

157

158 Commissioner Hover opened the discussion talking about some issues with roads that have been
159 opened to ATV use, and would like to discuss loops and larger sections of roads. Malorie stated their
160 concerns will regard the roads that were opened and would like to see proper and clear signage,

161 stronger enforcement for fines, and more outreach to uses, all of these go through critical areas, and
162 they want ensured protections for these areas. There are issues on Lester road in the Methow Valley
163 and people are going off road into wildlife areas owned by the WDFW, they have placed boulders in
164 the areas where they have had issues. Gates are preferred because there needs to be accessibility
165 for Wildland Firefighters and other emergency personnel. ATV's are not allowed on WDFW land.
166 Beaver Creek and Boulder Creek are two worrisome areas because they are great places to camp but
167 people will bring their ATV's into there. Campbell Lake Road will become an issue, because of the
168 lake, although it is not an allowed ATV road. Gunn Ranch Road could be an issue, Commissioner
169 Hover stated he does not feel it should be on the list. Winthrop is not open to WATV and that will be
170 their issue to work out. Another spot that could be challenging, is by the Beaver Ponds on Lester Road,
171 the road is not easily identifiable, but they want to identify those roads better, it is open to trucks and
172 normal vehicles as they are much more difficult to take off road. Sgt. McCormick stated there are areas
173 in the Sinlahekin and the County road running through wildlife areas there, they did not allow ATV's in
174 those campgrounds up there. Sgt. McCormick stated they removed the NO ATV signs around Fish
175 Lake, and have allowed it to be open, and Hunters Camp, to allow people to have easy access to a
176 restroom. Commissioner Hover asked if they have seen an increase of off-road use and damage to
177 wildlife areas? Near Hunters Camp they have seen hills being used and damaged by off-road vehicles,
178 Commissioner Hover asked if that started before or after the County road was opened? The incidents
179 he's seen have happened after. The County does not want that to happen, and people who do that
180 need to be fined and turned over to the Prosecuting Attorneys office. They are handing out fines
181 consistently, and it is a Civil Infractions. Commissioner Branch asked are they treating Dirt
182 Bikes/Motorcycles the same as ATV's, yes usually, but only if they are not plated. Commissioner Hover
183 requested a list/report of roads that WDFW has issues with so they can be addressed accordingly. If
184 the department was interested in increasing parking capacity in areas they could partner with the
185 County to work on that. Commissioner Branch asked if they were talking about building parking areas
186 on County right-of-way's for loading and offloading? Commissioner Hover feels there is an opportunity
187 for good partnership with the County and WATV, if done right, to work on parking lot areas. The State
188 law required WATV riders to have a map on their person so they know where they are allowed or not
189 allowed. Commissioner Branch stated maybe a map could be made with the County and WDFW that
190 is reviewed and people could sign off when WATV riders receive it and acknowledge the rules and
191 allowed roads, and if they are caught off-road they could not claim they didn't know because it would
192 be in their possession and signature acknowledge they understand the laws and roads that are
193 allowed. Mr. Hanes asked if the BOCC could look into how many citations have been given out in the
194 County to better understand how often this is being an issue. Commissioner Branch stated that these
195 future discussions should include the WATV group so they can better hold people accountable that
196 are breaking the law and disrespecting the wildlife areas and work Collaboratively with all parties
197 involved. Under current WATV rules any agency can issue a citation to violators, but they cannot fine
198 people violating County code or rules. Commissioner Hover will talk to Sheriff Budrow about
199 commissioning WDFW officers to be able to write those citations on county land. Roads that are not
200 allowed for WATV have road signs with red X's on them.

201

202 Commissioners adjourned for lunch from 12:30 PM until 1:30 PM.

203

204 **Discussion-Letter of Approval Low-Income Housing Planning Grant (CLIHP)**

205 OCCAC Rena Shawver, Scott Ackerson, FYRE, Gabi Esquivel, Kami Ochoa, Karen Harris, Sarah
206 Akhtar

207

208 Ms. Shawver opened discussing a consulting contract with the county regarding a CLIHP grant that is
209 available, and to help start discussions with local agencies that can help address homeless housing
210 and low-income housing. It requires a joint letter and a private nonprofit, she is putting OCCAC forward
211 as the non-profit that could fill that spot and the needs. Mr. Ackerson is part of the group that is working
212 on the 5-year homeless housing plan, and he discussed his experience within the homeless housing
213 work all over the United States. Commissioner Branch stated he believes there is a comprehensive

214 plan involved with this. Ms. Shawver stated she feels this grant and working with WEST-EAST
215 DESIGN will help facilitate the work needed to fill the 2,000 plus homes that need to be provided within
216 20 years within the county, and help house our currently homeless population. Commissioner Branch
217 read from the CLHP grant document over the necessary items to move forward with this grant.
218 Commissioner Hover clarified that we would have to be the recipient of the grant, and OCCAC would
219 be the sub recipient, and then W.E.D. would be the sub-contractor. Commissioner Hover read the
220 grant instructions and confirmed the grant would have to run through the county. So, Ms. Shawver is
221 asking for a letter of support and for the county to be the grant manager. Commissioner Hover stated
222 that the County usually charges an administrative fee for managing the contracts, and he isn't sure
223 how that would work for this grant. This would dovetail in with the Homeless Housing Grant. Mr.
224 Ackerson stated this is a great opportunity to work affordable housing into the homeless housing plan.
225 The grant deadline is Friday February 16th. Commissioners had Deputy Clerk of the Board write up
226 the letter to be submitted to department of commerce. Mr. Ackerson stated he would have the scope
227 of work to the Board of Commissioners by Monday, February 5th.

228

229 Commissioner Hover left for another meeting at 2:26 PM.

230

231 **Motion-Resolution 11-2024 Setting the Ad Valorem Taxes for 2024**

232 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the corrected Resolution 11-2024 setting the Ad Valorem
233 Taxes for 2024, motion seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

234

235 **Motion-Resolution 17-2024, Amending Resolution 193-2023 Task Force Sergeant**

236 Commissioner Branch moved to approve Resolution 17-2024 amending Resolution 193-2023, Task
237 Force Sergeant, motion seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

238

239 **Motion-Resolution 20-2024 Budget Amendment Title III Fund 137**

240 Commissioner Branch moved to approve Resolution 20-2024 authorizing a budget amendment
241 regarding Title III Fund 137 in the amount of \$337, motion seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

242

243 **Motion-Employment Agreement for Per Diem Nurse**

244 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Employment Agreement between Okanogan County and
245 Brooke Schreckengost as a Per Diem Registered Nurse-Nurse Care manager, motion seconded, all
246 in favor, motion carried.

247

248 **Update-Sheriff's Equipment and Coroner's Storage Building**

249 Chief of Dispatch Mike Worden

250

251 Mr. Worden stated that demoing the other two structures discussed last week would be much more
252 financially feasible. The architects would submit a separate bid for demoing the two buildings,
253 Commissioner Branch stated he was fine with that and recycling the lumber would be up to the other
254 contractor that is doing the demoing. Mr. Worden stated that public works suspects there is residual
255 hazardous materials inside of the holding tanks in the ground. The Commissioners had no objections
256 to separate bids for the building of the new building and the demoing of the two old buildings.

257

258 Commissioner Neal and Branch discussed an email from Fairgrounds Manager Chuck Ford regarding
259 use of Fairgrounds equipment by the public.

260

261 Commissioner Hover returned from his meeting at 2:49 PM.

262

263 Commissioner Branch asked Commissioner Hover if he could attend the OCCAC meeting tomorrow,
264 Wednesday January 31st as Commissioner Branch would be in Olympia.

265

266

267 **Motion-Interlocal Agreement Okanogan County Electric Co-op**
268 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the interlocal agreement between Okanogan County and
269 Okanogan County Electric Co-op for use of county's ARPA funds in the amount of \$500,000 for
270 Broadband. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
271
272 Commissioners discussed the recent state audit that found the county lacked documentation in its
273 ARPA funds contracts regarding, but after review by the Clerk of the Board and the Commissioners it
274 was noted that the County did have the adequate verbiage in the ARPA Contracts.
275
276
277 The board adjourned at 3:19 P.M.