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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

JULY 11, 2022

9:00 AM **Review Agenda and Consent Agenda**
9:05 AM **Briefing Among Commissioners**
9:15 AM **Public Comment Period**
9:30 AM **Commissioners Staff Meeting**
10:30 AM **Public Hearing Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan-Emergency Management Goodall**
11:30 AM **Discussion-Methow Emergency Management District Contract-Cindi Button**
1:30 PM **Discussion Governance Hospital District #3-Winnie Adams**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a Public Hearing at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on July 11, 2022 with Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, Commissioner Jim DeTro; and the Deputy Clerk of the Board, Crystal Hawley, present.

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

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Review Agenda and Consent Agenda

The commissioners reviewed their agenda and consent agenda.

Commissioner Branch arrived at 9:10

Briefing Among Commissioners

The commissioners briefed among themselves.

Public Comment Period

Ms. Jackson, a member of the public, attended public comment via zoom. She asked if the Public Health Agenda will be coming out soon and when would the public expect the agenda to be posted each month. Commissioner Hover explained he had emailed Public Health and as soon as he hears from them, he will let the public know.

Commissioner Hover closed the public comment period. No other public comment was made.

Commissioners Staff Meeting

Fairgrounds Manager Naomie Peasley, Emergency Management Maurice Goodall, Planning Director Pete Palmer, Clerk of the Board Lanie Johns

Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager, provided her fairgrounds update. Ms. Peasley explained that FAC had a meeting Thursday that went very well, with lots of exciting updates. New online tickets sales are now moving forward with the Treasurers approval. Ms. Peasley provided a list of food vendors and discussed the pricing for each vendor for the upcoming fair. Commissioner Branch will be asking the FAC Council for a Fee Schedule to explain each cost. Ms. Peasley explained she had received three quotes for the 4ft chain fencing project:

1. Quality Custom Fencing in the amount of \$22,785.00
2. Overland Fence in the amount of 17,251.50
3. Lake General in the amount of \$26,500.00

54 Emergency Management Maurice Goodall provided his update. Some of the debris came down during last
55 week's rain in Mazama. Mazama Early Winter Ditch Company will be working with the Forest Service and
56 DNR on the best way to get their ditch cleaned up.

57
58 Mr. Goodall attended a fire chief's meeting last week and some of the concerns is that they are being called
59 out by Lifeline to assist way too much, but not getting compensated. Commissioner Hover explained that
60 Wayne Walker from Lifeline had a meeting with the commissioners a few weeks back and he asked Mr.
61 Walker that same question and Mr. Walker had a different story. Commissioner DeTro said that he has
62 talked to a fire chief yesterday and he was pretty upset, because they are getting called way too often.

63
64 Lanie Johns, Clerk of the Board, brought forward a few items for discussion. Ms. Johns said she spoke to
65 Michael Beaman last week; he had sent over additional information on the courthouse predesign for the
66 commissioners to review before he meets with all the department heads to explain why the decisions were
67 made by the commissioners.

68
69 Ms. Johns explained that the Housing Coalition met last week to talk about the homeless housing issues. It
70 was suggested that the Housing Coalition add the Winter Shelter that Will Keller operates, Fyre (Foundation
71 for Youth Resiliency and Engagement) and Colville Tribal Housing Authority into the Coalition group.

72
73 Commissioner Hover explained that he has noticed an increase of homelessness in Okanogan and Omak.
74 Commissioner Branch would like to propose to a meet with the Housing Coalition to consider their goals and
75 objectives for the year 2023.

76
77 Lastly, Ms. Johns explained that the commissioners' office did receive another application for the Clerk III
78 position. Ms. Johns and her deputy, Crystal Hawley, will be interviewing the young lady this afternoon.

79
80 Pete Palmer Planning Director, had a meeting with Permit Review Committee with Health and Building. Ms.
81 Palmer explained that the procedures in place are working well for the most part. The Committee had a
82 really good discussion about the Methow water issue. All the committee agreed that, because of legality
83 issues, its best to let the Department of Ecology deal with the water issue.

84
85 Ms. Palmer would like to update Ordinance 2020-3; An ordinance which imposes interim land use controls
86 in accordance with RCW 36.70.795 Moratoria, interim zoning controls—Public hearing—Limitation on length
87 by amending OCC 17A.400.130-Water Availability Study Areas to designate the Upper Tunk Basin, Lower
88 Tunk Basin, and Tamarack Springs Basin all located in Water Resource Inventory Area #49, as water
89 availability study areas. Ms. Palmer would like to extend the two-year review period for the water availability
90 study.

91
92 **Public Hearing Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan-Emergency Management Goodall**
93 Commissioner Hover opened the public hearing to the staff. Maurice Goodall explained that the Multi-Hazard
94 Mitigation Plan will be utilized as a guide for planning as related to FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation and other
95 purposes as deem appropriate. Commissioner Hover asked if these planning roads can be located by GIS.
96 Mr. Goodall explained that he could list every single road, but it would take time. Ms. Palmer expressed that
97 a lot of it boils down to education, not only for the county, but the communities. A lot of these things exist,
98 but people are unaware of them.

99
100 Commissioner closed staff and opened to the public. A member of the public, Isabelle Spohn, provided a
101 submitted comment and explained several impacts of this proposal.

102
103 Commissioner Hover closed public testimony and opened up to the board. Commissioner Branch believes
104 there is a lot of efforts taking place. He would like to have plans in place and move forward. Commissioner
105 DeTro explained that somethings will have to be a working progress and they will have to figure things out
106 as they move forward.

107 Commissioner Hover expressed that as commissioners, we need to continue to move forward.
108

109 **Motion- Adopting All Hazard Mitigation Plan**

110 Commissioner Branch moved to adopt of the Okanogan County All Hazard Mitigation Plan including
111 community wildfire protection and terrorism plan components with an annual review the list of activities that
112 has happen the last year. Motion was second. All in favor? Motion carried.
113

114 **Discussion-Methow Emergency Management District Contract-Cindi Button**

115 Pam Johnson, Cindi Button, John Richardson, Lanie Johns
116

117 Commissioner Hover explained that the treasurer's office brought to the commissioners' attention that when
118 the county is contracting 100% of the levy to Aero Methow. With the other EMS contracts, they contract 90%
119 and the remainder goes into reserve. With contracting 100% of the Aero Methow, the county is using up
120 their reserves each month that a payment goes out.
121

122 Pam Johnson explained that herself and Lanie Johns met and discussed the EMS District Contract. The
123 current contract says that 12 equal payments of the amount collected. The county has been going over
124 budget.

125 Commissioner Hover would like Ms. Button to provide 90% of the levy amount and the county needs amend
126 the contract to reflect changes. Set a reserve amount to 150k and then adjust the amount at the end of the
127 year.
128

129 Ms. Johns explained that the contract doesn't reflect on who pays for audits. She would work with EMS to
130 make changes for both the EMS and the county, if both are comfortable.

131 Commissioner Hover thought that maybe we should get the average levy proceeds for the last five years to
132 get an idea of what has been paid out.
133

134 Ms. Button explained that the Aero Methow also has their own reserve that comes from donations and fire
135 services. The total budget Aero Methow submits will be reduced to 90% by them already. The county will
136 draft the initial amendment to the contract. December payment might be paid late to provide the county time
137 to review the cash on hand from collections through November. December payment will be the adjusting
138 payment and could be late due to calculating the collections at that point. 2023 January, February, and
139 March payments may need to be adjusted depending on final calculation of 2022.
140

141 **Discussion Governance Hospital District #3-Winnie Adams**

142 Winnie Adams, Megan Barton, Afton May, Dianna Osborne, Jamie Minnock, Holly Stanly were present.
143

144 Ms. Winnie Adams provided a recent timeline to the county commissioners (attached). Ms. Adams explained
145 that they welcome any questions or clarifications the commissioners may have.

146 On Monday, June 27th, 2022, the MVH/C administrative team became aware of the possibility that they
147 could be left with two commissioners by the end of the next board meeting. Out of a deep desire to protect
148 the safety and welfare of this community and viability of this organization, an attorney was retained as a
149 resource for the district to ensure we operate with fiduciary effectiveness. The next day, three of the five
150 hospital board commissioners resigned: Gary Oestreich, Chairman; Jerry Bowes, Vice-chairman; and Brent
151 Yusi, commissioner. The reasons for their resignations as stated by them, included declining health, general
152 well-being, and disagreements with the board's current direction. Their attorney was introduced to the
153 remaining board members as a resource, which they refused at the time, stating that they "know the RCW's".
154 The remaining commissioners, entered executive session for approx. 30 minutes and emerged with two
155 appointees, Rebecca Christoph, former MVH DON and Becky Corson, former MVC Clinic Administrator. At
156 that time, Becky Carson was still a paid employee with her last official day on July 1, 2022. Ms. Corson
157 would be officially appointed at the 7/6 special board meeting along with a 5th commissioner, Dr. Richard
158 Johnson.
159

160 Ms. Adams expressed that they have grave concerns that proper rules and procedures were not followed
161 despite efforts from the public and Commissioner Branch to intervene. The rapid appointment of three board
162 commissioners without seeking public participation and input is alarming and lends the appearance of
163 subterfuge. In the meeting minutes from June 28th, Commissioner LaGrou expressed the need to find a
164 CEO that would "turn this ship around". They want to make it clear that the MVH/MVC ship is heading in a
165 positive direction and will continue to do so because of the cohesiveness of the current Administrative team.
166 Statements to the contrary are incorrect and exhibits ignorance about national trends of shrinking margins
167 and staffing shortages. The MVH/C team is skilled, knowledgeable, and has been tirelessly working to
168 support staff and the district through these unprecedented times.

169
170 To complicate matters further, there have been significant allegations filed internally against board members
171 regarding misconduct and disruptive behavior. It is the responsibility of the Administrative team to ensure a
172 safe and non-hostile workplace and uphold our zero-tolerance policy for workplace violence. Commissioner
173 LaGrou was asked on June 30 to participate in mediation to discuss problems and improve relations between
174 the board and executive team members. Her answer continues to be, "I will think about it". The trauma from
175 these allegations has resulted in staff illness, absence, inefficiency, and two administrative team resignations
176 effective today, as a result and to protect the district, they have retained the services of an independent
177 investigative firm to conduct an unbiased and objective investigation. In order to preserve the mental health,
178 well-being and safety of their employees, Ms. Adams, the Interim CEO, informed the board of commissioners
179 that all communication be directed solely through her and to only come on campus of Mid Valley Hospital or
180 Clinic for board or committee meetings or to seek medical treatment.

181
182 Ms. Adams asked the county commissioners for their support and guidance through this difficult time.
183 Commissioner Hover explained that the Attorney General wants to be involved. Commissioner Branch is
184 concerned about staffing. Commissioner Hover explained that with him, he is black and white regarding
185 RCWs. With only two commissioners, they should have spent more time considering appointment without a
186 quorum. Commissioner Hover explained that the County Commissioners fully support the hospital districts.

187
188 Jamie Minnock just resigned today; she explained that if the board continues, the hospital will continue to
189 lose admin staff if something isn't done. She worked in Chelan and the same thing happened there. The
190 board is needing guidance. Commissioner DeTro explained that this situation is out of the County
191 Commissioners' hands.

192
193 The board adjourned at 2:20
194