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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

JULY 17, 2023

8:55 AM Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda
9:00 AM Discussion-Public Safety Tax Proposition-Sheriff Budrow
9:15 AM Public Comment Period
9:30 AM Update-Human Resources/Risk Management-Shelley Keitzman
10:00 AM Commissioners' Staff Meeting
11:00 AM Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedule
11:15 AM Review Commissioners Proceedings July 10 & 11, 2023
~~**11:30 AM** Update-Fairgrounds-Naomie Peasley Cancelled~~

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on July 17, 2023 with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; 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.

Commissioner Branch and Commissioner Neal attended the meeting via zoom.

Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda

The commissioners reviewed their agenda and consent agenda.

Discussion-Public Safety Tax Proposition-Sheriff Budrow

Cari Hall, Lisa Schreckengost, Esther Milner, Paul Budrow, Emily Sisson, Alex Scribe was present.

The Sheriff explained the county needs more money for law enforcement. He would like to add a 2% sales tax to be levied on the upcoming ballot. The proceeds will help fund the hiring of additional police officers, corrections officers, prosecuting attorneys; help fund the Drug Task Force and crime prevention efforts; and fund court and clerk programs including the drug, dui and mental health courts, by imposing a sales tax equal to two-tenths of one percent.

Commissioner Branch asked if it needs to go on the general or the primary ballot? The Auditor, Cari Hall, explained that it needs to be to the auditor's office by August 1st to get it on the general ballot.

Mr. Budrow explained that the type of crimes is different now, as well as, the Prosecutor's Office is low in staff. Okanogan county's income is lower than other counties. Mr. Budrow is projecting a million dollar increase for the county's income. This tax would expire in the year 2031.

Mr. Budrow said that he would go out in the public to campaign for this tax. Commissioner Hover explained as county employees, you can only give general information. He further said that, if you

52 pay for labor with the tax payers' money, after eight years, it would put a burden on the county's
53 current expense fund by taking on those wages.

54
55 Commissioner Branch said that people will also want to know what the county has done with the
56 two sales tax revenues voted in recent years and how this new voted sales tax revenue would be
57 used.

58
59 Commissioner Hover would be very reluctant to put this on the ballot this year. We need to take
60 the extra time to provide the public with a matrix on what the funds would go towards. Both
61 Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Branch agreed with Commissioner Hover.

62
63 Mr. Budrow said that the learning curve, as sheriff, is really steep and he will work on getting more
64 information.

65
66 **Public Comment Period**

67 Alex Scribe, Emily Sisson were present.

68
69 There was no public comment.

70
71 Commissioner Branch left the meeting at 9:25 a.m. to continue his travels to State Health Advisory
72 Board.

73
74 **Update-Human Resources/Risk Management-Shelley Keitzman**

75 Human Resources/Risk Management, Shelley Keitzman, provided her department update.

76 Ms. Keitzman said that CPR classes are scheduled for the month of August.

77
78 AED's which stands for automated external defibrillators are on back order. The total cost to the
79 county would be just over \$2000.00 for each machine. Ms. Keitzman would like to buy a couple
80 more to put in the VG Building. The Commissioners thought it was a good idea.

81
82 The Risk Pool Conference is July 19th-21st, 2023; Commissioner Branch and Ms. Keitzman will
83 be attending the conference.

84
85 North Cascades Athletic Club has offered an employee discount for county employees that sign
86 up for automatic deduction.

87
88 Ms. Keitzman said that the county's cell phone stipends are outdated and she would like to amend
89 to current stipend to reflex the current cell phones charges. The commissioners agreed with Ms.
90 Keitzman.

91
92 Public Defense asked for an additional attorney that would cost 120k-150k a year. She is working
93 with Ana to see if there is any grant to would help with the funding.

94
95 Ms. Keitzman has been working with OBHC on CJTA grant funding.

96
97 Therapeutic Court Coordinator Position is a contracted position, said Ms. Keitzman. It is a grant
98 funding position and the county cannot give COLA increases. This got missed with the last COLA
99 increase and the position received one.

100
101 Ms. Keitzman is working with the fairground's manager on a Security Guard Agreement for the
102 fairgrounds. The consumer will have to provide funding, not the county.

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Commissioners' Staff Meeting

Emergency Management, Maurice Goodall, Planning Director, Pete Palmer, Joe Poulin

Emergency Management

Emergency Manager, Maurice Goodall, asked if the commissioners had looked at the proposed resolution that he had emailed them last week. Commissioner Neal said that he would like to wait to discuss it until tomorrow when they have a full board. Other than that, he had no updates.

Planning Department

Planning Director, Pete Palmer explained that the Planning Commission Meeting was cancelled on July 24th. She had no other updates.

Maintenance Department

Maintenance Manager, Joe Poulin, explained that the HVAC was now up and running for the dispatch department.

Mr. Poulin explained that the maintenance crew will be cutting into the parking lot at the Justice Building today to prepare for them to fix the water leak tomorrow. They will need to turn off the water supply while they fix the leak.

Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedule

The commissioners briefed among themselves, discussing their weekly meeting and schedules

Review Commissioners Proceedings July 10 & 11, 2023

The commissioners reviewed the proceedings for July 10th and 11th. 2023

Update-Fairgrounds-Naomie Peasley was cancelled.

The board adjourned at 10:20 a.m.