

1 **RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

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3 **OKANOGAN COUNTY**

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5 **JULY 26, 2021**  
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- 7
- 8 **9:00 AM Review Commissioners' Agenda**
  - 9 **9:30 AM Discussion Clerk Job Description- Clerk of the Board**
  - 10 **10:00 AM Executive 42.30.110 (1)(i) David Gecas Tanya Everett**
  - 11 **10:30 AM Review Meeting Minutes**
  - 12 **11:00 AM Briefing Among Commissioners**
  - 13 **11:30 AM Discussion- Comments on Pacific Northwest Region Deferred Maintenance Projects**
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15 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North,  
16 Okanogan, Washington on July 26, 2021, with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member,  
17 Commissioner Jim DeTro and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

18  
19 AV Capture provided audio and video of the meetings held today, while ZOOM provided best  
20 audio accessibility and public interaction.

21  
22 Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover was available via zoom.

23  
24 **Review Commissioners' Agenda**

25 The Planning Commission meeting was cancelled.

26  
27 Maurice Goodall gave an update on the two fires in Methow that are still going Cedar Creek and  
28 Cub Creek. Some out buildings, a trailer, and one house was lost. The fire is working into the burn  
29 scars and at this time going south east and west. The Methow schools are set for receiving  
30 evacuees. All electrical power was energized, Pearrygin Lake is closed and being used as a  
31 retardant base. Mr. Goodall explained the areas affected and how residents are reacting to the  
32 levels. Dealing with the fatigue and how to get the people back into their homes. He explained  
33 relief that will be coming in and who is working to get the resources here. There is fuel but no  
34 drivers to drive the fuel trucks. It is a situation.

35  
36 Turning around UPS and FedEx drivers if they do not live in the area. All agencies were  
37 coordinated via group text to help control traffic and provide coordination of man power. Law  
38 Enforcement from Winthrop, Twisp, State Patrol, and Forest Service.

39  
40 Commissioner Hover noted that there was a lot of traffic on the Wolf Creek Road by non-residents.  
41 Mr. Goodall said they will try and control that better and get people out of there.

42  
43 Commissioner Branch discussed the property management ordinance he drafted like Douglas  
44 County's. Attorney Clem had reviewed and drafted that code.

45  
46 Commissioner Hover asked if they had used a committee. Need to discuss with the Treasurer  
47 and anyone else interested in forming the additional code section.

48  
49 Commissioners discussed the All Hazards Mitigation Plan update that Isabelle Spohn commented  
50 that the 700-page plan was out for comment and that there was only one week for the public to  
51 comment on it.

52 **Discussion Clerk Job Description- Clerk of the Board**

53 The Clerk of the Board discussed the drafted resolution that authorizes a .75 FTE in the  
54 commissioners' office explaining the position is not qualified for Work Source training  
55 reimbursement. The person hired would have to pay a portion of their benefits. HR Shelley  
56 Keitzman explained how the reimbursements work. Commissioner Hover would like to figure out  
57 the total cost of benefit to figure out how we can use part time help that do not already have some  
58 kind of other medical insurance. Commissioner Branch would prefer to do an analysis to sort out  
59 the benefits. This is an entry level position.

60  
61 Commissioner Hover asked for a break down for the .75 FTE versus full time. Work Source will  
62 pay the 50% for the first three months. Look at the assistance being provided at each level, said  
63 Commissioner Branch. There is plenty of work to do and if we needed the person could help scan  
64 the Planning documents. The training part should not interrupt the Clerk's time with the board.  
65 Research the Preservation of Documents funds collected for preserving documents whether that  
66 can be used for the position. Commissioners Hover would like to take some time to figure out  
67 what the board wants to do with the position. Ideas for funding the position is needed for  
68 consideration to use Preservation of Documents and ARPA funds and Planning funds with Gene  
69 and Pete to find out what our own scanning capabilities for the larger documents.

70  
71 **Briefing Among Commissioners**

72 Commissioners discussed the proposed draft of the county's property management document.  
73 Commissioner Branch will run the draft by the Treasurer. Transfer of county property for other  
74 than cash that it be stipulated accordingly in the document. Definition of the abutter and a  
75 provision for that was made. Commissioners discussed holding the hearing remotely versus  
76 physical attendance. There are citizens who refuse to participate remotely or they can't.  
77 Commissioner Branch reviewed the draft notice and discussed the concern about remote  
78 meetings that people were not getting a good idea of what was being presented and who was  
79 speaking. Commissioner Hover said Zoom allows people to participate instead of watching and  
80 suggested camera on Zoom to allow people to see us that way in addition to AV Capture video.  
81 Pay close attention to the agenda and only make changes when its open to change, said  
82 Commissioner Branch. If someone is not able to attend via Zoom they can come into the hearing  
83 room to physically testify at the podium. Another video camera will be needed that does not  
84 interfere with AV Capture mics.

85  
86 Commissioners discussed lead government agency on board with Watershed Foundation and it  
87 has been paying all the bills and is the fiduciary entity. Go out with RFQ for administration services  
88 of the Watershed Foundation, said Commissioner Hover.

89  
90 **Executive 42.30.110 (1)(i) David Gecas Tanya Everett**

91 Commissioner DeTro moved to go into executive session at 10:00 a.m. for 30 minutes inviting  
92 Risk Manager Tanya Everett and David Gecas to discuss potential litigation under RCW  
93 42.30.110 (1)(i). Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

94  
95 Executive session ended at 10:30 p.m. no decisions were made.

96  
97 Commissioners took a 10-minute recess.

98  
99 **Review Meeting Minutes**

100 Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes.

103 **Discussion- Comments on Pacific Northwest Region Deferred Maintenance Projects**

104 This item was requested as a discussion topic by Commissioner Branch.

105 The Clerk of the Board read the email that requested comments on proposed deferred  
106 maintenance projects identified for potential Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) funding in  
107 USDA Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23). Projects funded by GAOA will enable federal land managers to  
108 take aggressive steps to address deferred maintenance and other infrastructure projects on  
109 national forests and grasslands. This year the Region is also considering how three current USDA  
110 priorities align with the proposed projects (providing economic relief, tackling climate change, and  
111 advancing racial equity). Since all projects were informed by public involvement through the  
112 NEPA process, this effort will focus on goals specific to GAOA. Comments are due July 27.  
113 Commissioners reviewed the list and discussed the three projects within Okanogan County. The  
114 smoke jumpers base is on the list. Commissioners discussed drafting a comment letter versus  
115 each submitting a comment via the link. Commissioner Branch thought the board can address  
116 the Smoke Jumper's base and get a word in then each comment individually.

117

118 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

119 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those  
120 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on  
121 a list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote,  
122 to approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$414,059.01. Warrant numbers as cited on the  
123 attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

124

125 **Motion Public Health Voucher**

126 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers  
127 in the amount of \$49,678.22. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list.  
128 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

129

130 **Motion**

131 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the chairman to sign a letter supporting the Great American  
132 Outdoors Act project funding of deferred Forest Service maintenance projects that includes funding for  
133 the Smoke Jumpers Base. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

134

135 The board adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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