

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

JULY 6, 2021

8:15 AM Discussion Travel Policy Superior Court- Judge Chris Culp, Admin Dennis Rabidou
9:00 AM Commissioners' Staff Meeting
10:00 AM Update Clerk's Office
10:30 AM Discussion Veteran Staff Training- Eric Fritts
11:00 PM Update Public Works- Josh Thomson
1:30 PM Public Comment
2:00 PM Discussion Planning Concerns- Craig Tissell
2:30 PM Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) Shelley Keitzman
4:00 PM Approve Commissioners' Proceedings June 28th and June 29th
4:30 PM Approve Consent Agenda

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on July 6, 2021, with; Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jim DeTro and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

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

Commissioners discussed prioritization of certain items that should go on the calendar to be reminded of and provide another list of issues in play or currently being addressed.

Commissioner DeTro arrived at 8:50 a.m.

Discussion Travel Policy Superior Court- Judge Chris Culp, Admin Dennis Rabidou

The county auditor had isolated an airline bill of Superior Court that had \$746 of extra costs. She had questioned the extra costs because costs above and beyond a base fare rate were not specifically allowed the policy. Judge Culp explained the extra costs were due to airlines charging extra for exit seats with extra leg room the airline didn't charge for that before.

Commissioners reviewed 18-2015 regarding use of most economical travel options when traveling. Judge Culp stated the travel taken was not the base coach fare it added costs extra for extra leg room which was above and beyond a base fare rate. It was not business class seats it was coach with extra leg room for all travelers. Judge Culp explained other circumstances when Judge Rawson's travel costs were not questioned by the board. The cost above and beyond the base fare rate was \$745 and that included cancellation travel insurance, in case they could not go to the conference due to COVID. Mr. Rabidou asked if the board was considering changes to its travel policy to include plane fares as it did not specifically address costs of plane fares. Use of the most economical forms of travel is what is stated in the personnel manual for ground travel. Judge Culp agreed that the policy did state that. Commissioner Branch said plane fare purchases and extra room costs are not addressed in the policy. Judge Culp said under the circumstances, he does not see where this extra cost is not allowed and he asked the board to reconsider paying the \$746. The judge understands the issue.

52 Commissioner Branch said there are many people in the county in government that the Judge got extra
53 consideration because he is a judge, but that is not what he is considering. He said the policy is where
54 he is looking for guidance in this matter and it doesn't specifically address the situation. When traveling
55 as staff for local government Commissioner Branch knew the politics of his position and would have
56 always chosen to pay for any upgrades himself. He also acknowledged that long airline trips to the
57 east coast are not all that common in the County. He noted that his last trip to DC was long and
58 especially uncomfortable in the normal seating arrangement. Commissioner Hover discussed the extra
59 charges that airlines charge now that they didn't charge before.

60
61 Commissioners would like the travel section of the policy to be modified to include guidance on air fare.

62
63 **Motion**
64 Commissioner Branch moved to reconsider the previous motion of the board with regards to the extra
65 airline costs of around \$746. Commissioner Hover seconded the motion, motion was approved.

66
67 Commissioners said if the voucher came back to them they would consider approving it.

68
69 **Commissioners' Staff Meeting**
70 Pete Palmer, Joe Poulin, Naomie Peasley, Maurice Goodall

71
72 Maurice Goodall gave his staff update. He explained fireworks were banned by several towns and cities
73 in the county. He suggested New Years Eve fireworks be addressed in the county code as it is illegal
74 right now and that is when most people fire them. There wasn't much to report on. The meeting last
75 week with the power companies went well. Okanogan County has four lines coming into the county
76 three of them are BPA and the PUD is working on how they would handle power resets.

77
78 Pete Palmer reported that she passed her training. Monday night the Planning Commission did turn
79 back the revisions of the critical areas. Wednesday meeting with Scott for some suggested wording.
80 Commissioners would like the changes listed for them to review. Ms. Palmer said an announcement
81 was drafted for the newspapers but it hasn't been published yet for the advisory committees to be
82 reconstituted. Some involved said they would prefer to advise on their own areas and not re-draw
83 different boundaries.

84
85 Naomie Peasley asked if the contract can be extended for the Long-Term Recovery Group. They will
86 be out by fair time. Mr. Poulin did not see a problem with extending the contract for use of the facilities
87 to help fire victims.

88
89 Commissioner Hover asked Ms. Peasley to draft the amendment to extend the contract and bring it
90 forward to the board for consideration. Ms. Peasley said yes, but she would be gone soon.

91
92 There are several contracts to be reviewed for vendors and event entertainment for this year's fair. The
93 camping contracts have not been done due to electrical issues having not been addressed.

94
95 Commissioner Hover asked for quotes to address the electrical in the RV campgrounds otherwise
96 generators will be allowed on the grounds.

97
98 **Motion**
99 Commissioner Hover moved to consider a contract amendment through the end of July with Okanogan
100 County Long Term Recovery for use of fair grounds. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
101 carried. The amendment will be drafted and brought forward.

102

103 Joe Poulin provided his maintenance update. HVAC quotes for Admin Building were provided.
104 (attached) Commissioners reviewed the Capital Improvement fund reiterating the planned
105 improvements budgeted there Courthouse parapet project, Public Works, Fairgrounds etc....

106
107 Admin Building HVAC Replacements
108 DIVCO all three units \$61,354
109 Plus 1-unit on 3rd Floor \$18,671
110 Total \$80,025 plus tax or just 2nd floor \$21,428

111
112 Cascade Mechanical looked at the job and declined. Kruse Electric declined.

113
114 Proposal for change over of jail pneumatic controls to electrical that works the fresh air vent was
115 provided. (attached) This is a mechanical upgrade to the system and considered outside regular
116 maintenance. The Board would like additional quotes

117
118 **Motion**

119 Commissioner Hover moved to direct Maintenance to gather two additional quotes for the mechanical
120 upgrades in the jail. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

121
122 Mr. Poulin reported, the old south end restrooms at the fairgrounds that are across from the new
123 bathrooms were discussed as they need to be refurbished before the fair. How much effort does the
124 board wish to put into the building in preparation of the fair. This building would make a good laundry
125 and shower. Public laundry has its challenges, stated Poulin but we do have the proper septic to tie
126 into right across the drive. Mr. Poulin said it could be cleaned up and made useable for fair.
127 Commissioner Branch said leave them the way they are but clean, paint, and make useable for fair.

128
129 The seasonal position is open at the fairgrounds. Mr. Poulin said with fair time coming up there needs
130 to be three seasonal employees on the fairgrounds. He said the FAC is confused about what
131 maintenance is taking care of and what the FAC is taking care of. The garbage and the gates need to
132 be figured out.

133
134 Commissioner Branch would like to go over the fair items that Ms. Peasley has laid out so the board
135 has an idea of what is happening.

136
137 Commissioner Hover said the board will decide later today regarding the HVAC systems.

138
139 Commissioner DeTro asked if other commissioners would be attending the July 15 Rotary Dinner and
140 the July 22 OBHC retreat and the Saturday, July 10, 30-mile fire memorial.

141
142 Commissioners provided a brief summary of things discussed among the community. Commissioners
143 discussed the Sales Stock Committee (state nonprofit but not 501c3) and their handling of the sales.
144 There is no money coming into the county or going out of the county for this function. No tax payer
145 dollars are used for this function of the fair. The entire fairgrounds is rented to the FAC. Commissioner
146 Branch said there is a disconnect that needs to be sorted out. Commissioners will explore this further.

147
148 Commissioner Hover stated the board needs to figure out staffing for fair since Ms. Peasley resigned.

149
150 **Update Clerk's Office**

151 The Clerk was unavailable.

152
153 **Discussion Veteran Staff Training- Eric Fritts**

154 Karen Beatty, Tom Even, Eric Fritts

155

156 One day per week training for Mr. Even was requested by the Veterans Board, but this will take time
157 away from his job at central services for 8-weeks and why Ms. Beatty is present. Veterans Office and
158 Central Services is looking for commissioners' support. Mr. Even said there are many loop holes he
159 cannot see and he needs to be trained on what to look for so he doesn't overlook something important.
160 Mr. Beatty said her department is extremely busy right now and she would like the arrangement be no
161 longer than necessary and he would like the flexibility to pull him away from veterans to central services.
162 Commissioner Hover stated Mr. Fritts is an exempt employee and one fund cannot benefit the other
163 and suggested Ms. Everett comment on the arrangement and figure out how this would work. Central
164 Service responsibilities will take precedence. Commissioners believe if this can work properly they did
165 not have a problem with the arrangement.

166
167 Commissioner Hover said the double gate for fairgrounds should be replaced and the quote Joe
168 received is a good quote. He doesn't want departments to think the board is just throwing money at it,
169 but it has been dilapidated for so long and it needs a lot of repair.

170
171 Commissioner Branch thought a complaint about a public employee would need to be discussed by
172 the board. There is time this afternoon.

173
174 **Update Public Works- Josh Thomson**

175 Engineer Thomson provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there.

176
177 **Maintenance & Road Conditions**

178 Chip sealing projects are underway and areas being addressed were discussed. Malott next week then
179 Okanogan then Nespelem. Trying to do three areas each year to combine crews and keep them
180 efficient. Commissioner Hover discussed a question about whether or not the county can receive a
181 petition to not pave any more roads. Dirt roads cost more to maintain and there are plenty of requests
182 to pave other roads. The county can chip seal during hot weather due to the type of cure used that
183 needs heat to cure fast.

184
185 Dept. of Natural Resources is claiming ownership of the airspace above the river regarding Burma
186 Road bridge. We are not working on this bridge at this time.

187
188 Commissioners discussed the Tawls-Foster Bridge and who would be responsible for the footing
189 erosion repairs. Commissioner Branch thought someone should present to the Board on the
190 interpretation of navigable waters rule. Aquatic permits and the basis of the permit should be discussed
191 by the agency before proceeding.

192
193 *Old 97 Construction Project*

194 Will be seeding once completed.

195
196 *Guardrail Construction Project*

197 Will be seeding once completed.

198
199 *ARPA Funds*

200 Engineer Thomson explained funds that determine loss of Public Works revenue shortfall but our
201 argument may not be too strong and may be considered awash. There are some plans by others to get
202 the rule changed at the federal level.

203 Mazama Water Quality System and sewer system funds were discussed.

204
205 *STBG Call for Projects*

206 Engineer Thomson explained award of STBG funds what is needed before award and what prevents
207 us from meeting our goals.
208

209 Commissioner Hover asked Commissioner Branch if he would research the Mazama Water Quality
210 Fund breakdown from the county auditor. A provision was identified that 10% of the funds would be
211 spent on water quality management administration and wondered what Commissioner Branch's
212 thoughts are on that once he's had a chance to research. RCW 36.94.490 and RCW 39.34.190.

213

214 **Approve Consent Agenda**

215 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-3 as presented. Motion was
216 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

217 1. Contract-Contech Engineered Solutions

218 2. Contract- Parametrix Contract Supplement for Pond #2 Leak Location and Repairs
219 Consultation

220 3. Contract- Freightliner

221

222 **Public Comment**

223 No public provided comment.

224

225 **Motion Oroville Rural EMS District**

226 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Oroville Rural EMS District.

227 Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

228

229 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Oroville Rural EMS
230 District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$9,680 for June Services. Motion was seconded, all were
231 in favor, motion carried.

232

233 Commissioner Branch stated negotiations to open the Life Line Contract was requested by the city.
234 Commissioner Branch will have the discussion with the City of Oroville.

235

236 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Oroville Rural EMS District and Reconvene as the
237 Tonasket EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

238

239 **Motion Tonasket EMS District**

240 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Tonasket EMS District.

241 Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

242

243 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Tonasket EMS
244 District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$21,700 to Life Line for June Services. Motion was
245 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

246

247 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Tonasket EMS District and Reconvene as the Methow
248 Valley EMS. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

249

250 **Motion Methow Valley EMS District**

251 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Methow Valley EMS
252 District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

253

254 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Methow Valley
255 EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$58,867.75. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
256 motion carried.

257

258 Commissioner Branch moved to approve and authorize the District Chairman Andy Hover to approve
259 the Data Sharing Agreement between Methow EMS District and State Auditor. Motion was seconded,
260 all were in favor, motion carried.

261

262 Commissioner DeTro moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS District and Reconvene as the
263 BOCC. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

264

265 **Approve Commissioners' Proceedings June 28th, June 29th and 30th.**

266 Commissioner Hover moved to approve commissioners' proceedings of June 28, 29, and 30th 2021.
267 Motion was seconded, commissioner Branch abstained, Commissioner Hover and DeTro voted yeah,
268 motion carried.

269

270 **Discussion Planning Concerns- Craig Tissell**

271 Planning Director Pete Palmer

272

273 Mr. Tissell did not attend the meeting he arranged to discuss his concerns with the Board.

274

275 Commissioner Hover suggested contracting with Stella Columbia to handle this year's fair and events.
276 We will need to gather pertinent info about the direction the board wants to go before holding a meeting
277 to go over it. The first relevant people to attend a meeting would be Joe and Kyle. Commissioner Branch
278 will sit with Naomie Peasley to go over things and he will contact Ms. Columbia to help out.
279 Commissioner Hover will attend the FAC meetings as the county representative.

280

281 **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) Shelley Keitzman**

282 Commissioner DeTro moved to go into executive session at 2:35 p.m. for 20 minutes inviting Shelley
283 Keitzman to discuss matters regarding RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g). Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
284 motion carried.

285

286 Executive session was extended by 5 minutes at 2:55 p.m.

287

288 Executive session ended at 3:00 p.m. no decisions were made.

289

290 Commissioners discussed advisory boards being autonomous.

291

292 The board adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

293

294 Dated at Okanogan, Washington this ____ day of _____ 2021.

295

296

297

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON**

298

299

300

301

302

Chris Branch, Chairman

303

304

305

ATTEST:

Andy Hover, Member

306

307

308

Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board

Jim DeTro, Member

309