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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

JUNE 22, 2021

8:30 AM Discussion Probation Position Vacancy District Court-Darla Schreckengast
9:00 AM Commissioners' Staff Meeting
10:00 AM Continued Public Hearing Horticultural Pest Control Assessment
11:00 AM Update Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson
1:30 PM Public Comment Period
2:00 PM Department Head Quarterly Meeting-Commissioners Hearing Room
3:00 PM Discussion-Conconully Lake Motorized Speed -Michael Ray
4:30 PM Approve Commissioners Proceedings
4:40 PM Approve Consent Agenda

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on June 22, 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.

Commissioner Hover noted that he would be absent this afternoon.

Discussion Probation Position Vacancy District Court-Darla Schreckengast

Judge Grim, Judge Short, Darla Schreckengost, Darcy Klepec

Judge Grim explained District Court is in the process of hiring a probation officer to fill the second probation officer position due to a resignation. A resolution will be submitted to the board for approval.

Historically, the costs switched back and forth where expenses were paid from probation budget one year then switched to current expense the next, but now expenses are only paid with probation funds. The request is for current expense to support a portion of the probation officer costs per RCW 3.62.050 and RCW 10.64.121.

Judge Grim discussed District Court caseloads being down right now due to COVID, but cases are expected to increase. Judge Grim said the position is union and set at \$20.34 per hour, starting wage. District Court is no longer allowed to pass the public defense costs on to indigent. Commissioner Branch stated the association is aware of that.

Commissioner Hover suggested this proposal be discussed with the finance committee. There seems to be many positions coming into the general fund right now that historically were paid from other funds such as Therapeutic courts. He would like to look at options in order to not take away other obligations of the courts in order to evaluate any other place to fund the position. Judge Grim stated whomever is hired this year, they don't want the position to be defunded come December because there aren't enough funds in Probation fund. He wants to look at the position long term. Judge Grim said there are currently two probation officer positions and a legal process assistant position are authorized. Judge Grim is requesting a portion of the cost of the position to be paid from current expense as the board

52 considers its 2022 budget. Commissioner DeTro hoped that the legislature can address the marijuana
53 revenue and allocate a larger share to the counties. The group thanked the board for its consideration.

54

55 Commissioner Hover would like leave this afternoon prior to the 1:30 p.m. discussion topic.

56

57 **Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

58 Pete Palmer, Joe Poulin

59

60 Director Palmer stated the county received a letter from the Town of Conconully to withdraw from the
61 agreement that provides planning and building services such as site analysis and building inspections.
62 There are differences between their ordinances and code which caused problems. None of the
63 commissioners thought there was a problem with their withdrawal. They still need building inspections.

64

65 Joe Poulin provided his maintenance update. HVAC system replacements for Juvenile Admin Building
66 were discussed. Received only one quote from DIVCO as it has been difficult to obtain two bids due to
67 business being booked. Commissioner Branch said insufficient systems are starting to affect people
68 who work in the building. Give time to obtain another quote within five days. The two quotes from DIVCO
69 were reviewed, one quote to replace one of the aging HVAC systems with crane and another quote to
70 replace all three with crane. Commissioners wish for Mr. Poulin to emphasize the emergency of the
71 situation to

72

73 Commissioner Hover would like to get it done if not other quotes are requested and received within 5-
74 days. If no additional quotes are obtained then contact DIVCO to go ahead and order Central Services
75 and the Juvenile Admin Building HVAC systems. It will cost around \$100,000 to replace all of them
76 based on DIVCO quotes.

77

78 Staff is flushing out South end RV hookups today. All septic tank plans were received from public health,
79 but Joe didn't see plans for the restroom by the beef barn.

80

81 Fairground irrigation systems were discussed. Staff is dragging hoses around right now. Commissioner
82 Hover recommended concentrating water on RV camping areas and fertilize it. He said he observed the
83 grounds and he didn't feel the grounds was that dry even though lots of people use it and complain
84 about the length and dryness of the grass.

85

86 Naomie Peasley discussed the fairgrounds expense and revenue reports which she provided to the
87 board. She said she is currently overwhelmed and stressed that no applicants have been hired for the
88 office help. The chair and table dollies should have been paid out of the Fairgrounds budget not the
89 maintenance budget.

90

91 **Continued Public Hearing Horticultural Pest Control Assessment**

92 Commissioner Branch opened up the continued hearing to staff. Pest Control Agent Will Carpenter said
93 the purpose of the hearing was to consider a combined assessment of \$2.25 per planted commercial
94 acre with a \$1.61 per parcel assessment for all county parcels beginning in 2022.

95

96 Seeing no one from the public to comment, Commissioner Branch closed public testimony and opened
97 up to the commissioners. How much revenue does the tree fruit bring into Okanogan County, asked
98 Commissioner Hover. Mr. Carpenter said he is working to obtain that information. Commissioner Hover
99 said people in his neck of the woods don't grow commercial tree fruit but there are many back-yard tree
100 fruits. This pest control board helps them as well as commercial growers. Mr. Carpenter explained he
101 has workers on staff that help the back-yard tree growers with sprays, education, and information.

102

103 Ruth Hall asked a question out of order. Commissioner Branch entertained her question. Is there already
104 an assessment on parcels? No, the \$1.61 is new and all parcels would be assessed. The \$2.25 per acre
105 is applied only to commercial tree acres and that is current and will continue.

106

107 **Motion 67-2021 Pest Control Assessment for 2022**

108 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 67-2021 adopting proposed levels of assessments
109 and setting the per parcel assessment at \$1.61 as recommended by the Horticultural Pest and Disease
110 Control Board. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

111

112 Commissioner Branch thought a news release about the board's decision would be good. Mr. Carpenter
113 said the Tri County arrangement was previously advertised. Commissioners would like this decision
114 advertised also.

115

116 **Public Hearing US Electrodynamics Utility Franchise**

117 Engineer Thomson, Jo Ann Stansbury

118

119 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing for the franchise of US Electrodynamics Inc renewal.
120 The Clerk of the Board explained the commissioners' agenda did not get drafted with the hearing noted.
121 However, Ms. Stansbury said the notice was properly published in the newspaper.

122

123 Ms. Stansbury provided her staff report relaying the timeframe for the application. No public comments
124 were received after publication in the county's newspaper of record. Public Comment was requested,
125 no public wished to comment. Commissioner Branch closed public testimony and opened up to
126 commissioners' discussion.

127

128 **Motion Resolution 72 2021 Franchise Agreement US Electrodynamics Inc**

129 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution approving the franchise agreement between the
130 county and Electrodynamics for utility franchise. Commissioners asked and Jo Ann Stansbury explained
131 where the franchise was located. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

132

133 **Update Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson**

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

135

136 *Maintenance and Road Conditions*

137 At the Miller Pit paved road where the dirt road abuts will eventually be smoothed out with use and water.

138

139 *Herd Districts Open Range Signs*

140 Public Works has been catching up on replacing open range and herd district signs. It is under the
141 commissioners' purview to authorize those. The last one was the biggest area in north county.

142

143 *Tawlks-Foster Bridge Footing Erosion*

144 The cost to repair the footings was estimated at \$135,000. The Clerk of the Board reminded that LTAC
145 funds paid for the bridge decking repairs on this bridge in the past. Commissioner Hover suggested an
146 application for LTAC funds be filled out and submitted.

147

148 *Engineering Tech Promotion*

149 Engineer Thomson explained a resolution to promote the Tech position was drafted for consideration.
150 The position Mr. Unser would move out of has already been published.

151

152

153

154 **Motion Resolution 76-2021 Engineer Tech Promotion**
155 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 76-2021 authorizing a promotion of Josh Unser to
156 the Engineer Tech position. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

157
158 *Old 97 Construction Project*
159 Paving started striping to start afterward. The work looks good and contractor is doing a good job.
160
161 STP funding and joint application with city of Okanogan for Rodeo Trail Road was discussed. City of
162 Okanogan would have to replace water lines and may want to upgrade it for any future building out
163 there.

164
165 *WSACE Managing Director Interviews*
166 WSACE Managing Director Interviews are next week in Olympia, which the engineer will participate.
167

168 *ARPA funds*
169 Engineer Thomson saw the resolution regarding the ARPA funds on the consent agenda. The county is
170 still trying to figure out the process of receiving the funds. We are still learning whether or not road fund
171 should be considered an aggregate part of the county budget used for ARPA request determination.
172

173 Engineer Thomson thought funds would be dispersed through CAPA and it didn't make up what was
174 lost and thought the aggregate was the road fund.

175
176 *Consent Agenda*
177 Engineer Thomson provided details for the public works items listed on the consent agenda.
178

179 Complaints about Tonasket Airport Road were discussed. It was thought the complaint likely came from
180 someone who does not live here. Commissioner DeTro received compliments about how much work
181 the county has put into the road over the years. It has been greatly improved. Don't usually put guardrails
182 on dirt roads due to erosion issues and cannot grade. Alignment is really poor on that road.

183
184 Commissioners adjourned for lunch at 11:40 a.m.
185 Commissioner Hover was absent this afternoon as discussed earlier.
186

187 **Public Comment Period**
188 Isabelle Spohn provided her comment regarding the challenges the commissioners are faced with in
189 putting together committees to help with elements of the county's comprehensive plan. She provided
190 some history of the three committees in the Methow area. She thought the committees should advise
191 the Planning Commission. She complained about the amount of time it is taking to adopt the plan and
192 the many environmental changes happening such as climate that haven't yet been addressed in the
193 plan. She believes a citizen committee should be appointed to do the Methow Review District who can
194 pick up where they left off in the 1970's. It doesn't need to be as complicated as people are making it.
195

196 Commissioner Branch said the comp plan drives zoning. He is interested in having a conversation with
197 the group who feels they should be autonomous. He hears what she is saying about the past, but he is
198 concerned with what people want today. Commissioner Branch thanked Ms. Spohn for her comment.
199

200 **Department Head Quarterly Meeting-Commissioners Hearing Room**
201 Josh Thomson, Leah McCormack, Karen Beatty, Dave Rodriguez, Larry Hudson, Pete Palmer, Jamie
202 Groomes, Tanya Everett, Kayla Wells-Moses, Mike Worden, Larry Gilman, Tammy Denney, Judge Grim
203 Each department provided a brief update of their department and what they are working on and hitting
204 some of those highlights.

205 Jamie Groomes said budget workbooks are going out the second Tuesday in July. There is a small
206 primary election being prepared for August. Commissioner Branch spoke about coordination among
207 departments and asked for ideas to make that interdepartmental coordination work better.
208

209 Assessor Gilman explained every property owner was sent a property assessment notice whether
210 values changed or not. Law requires this. It is a hot real estate market right now and mailings went out
211 on time. Physical inspections saw the biggest spike because it has been seven years since properties
212 were physically inspected. The Clerk of the Board noted that despite all properties being valued she has
213 six hearable appeals so far, which is hundreds less than usual.
214

215 Building Official Dan Higbee provided the building department update. Applications are 40% above last
216 years.
217

218 Mike Worden warned of legislative changes will be applied in July having to do with liability and the
219 Sheriff's office. It is creating some panic. Significant changes in law enforcement across the state and
220 how dispatch will respond to those calls. Figuring out how the changes impact law enforcement.
221 Communication staffing is challenging, there are few applicants.
222

223 Working on the courthouse generator hook up but currently waiting for another switch which is expected
224 sometime in September.
225

226 Jail bookings are about half of the normal bookings. Until the heating system is fixed, the jail is not
227 looking to house more.
228

229 Coroner Dave Rodriguez provided his departmental update. Statewide the incident numbers for COVID
230 are going down. COVID death rates have also gone down across the state. Bad news is that the numbers
231 of people dying is way up. He is way ahead of what he's seen in the past. It is more of everything, spike
232 in suicides in this county and across the state, and death is just up due to other things.
233

234 Emergency Manager Goodall updated the group about incidents and how those are handled and what
235 information is pushed out to the public. He asked for volunteers to sign up for the call center to prepare
236 for fire season.
237

238 Central Services updated the group on central services and what they are doing right now. The website
239 is being refined and forms created for certain departments. Commissioner Branch said it does take some
240 time work through the website and keep up with changes. As long as people can learn to use the search
241 function you can find where you need to go. Outlook solutions were discussed that may help with issues.
242

243 Judge Grim thanked staff for their help on the website. Most trials are still via zoom except for jury trials.
244 There is a room in the courthouse where folks can participate. It has been difficult filling positions. Judge
245 Short was elected president of the association, so congratulations is welcomed.
246

247 Lauri Jones provided a brief public health update. Still doing vaccination events on Friday's with last day
248 is July 23. The cases are going up this week especially in the Methow. Incident does not exclude those
249 vaccinated. Hopeful the governor will announce his plan for reopening this week. It won't preclude health
250 care workers and corrections from wearing a mask.
251

252 Noxious Weed, Larry Hudson, stated understaffed not many applications for open positions which is the
253 biggest challenge right now. Aquatic treatments will begin soon. Treatment dates will be sent on the
254 Everbridge notification system.
255

256 Leah McCormack stated there are two people who refuse to pay their lake management district
257 assessment she is concerned about it becoming a lien or foreclosure issue. There is a process during
258 public hearing for folks to submit a comment as to why they should not be assessed and commissioners
259 can exclude them from the roles.

260
261 Tanya Everett, formerly known as Tanya Craig, provided her update. The county is having difficulties
262 filling vacancies. It is a problem across the state. There is no incentive for people to look for a job right
263 now because people are getting extra unemployment money which amounts to \$1200 extra per month.
264 The state also doesn't have enough staff to process inquiries. Ms. Everett explained Civil Service
265 processes and how vacancies are filled laterally. Ms. Everett said there have been quite a few accidents
266 (L&I) among staff as we have an aging staff who may not be making the best choices. There is always
267 drama.

268
269 Josh Thomson gave a brief update on road projects. Recruitment is an issue and seems to be a problem
270 everywhere.

271
272 Treasurer McCormack reported that people paid their property taxes despite COVID and we are about
273 65% receipted. The county is not doing bad, but infrastructure does have expensive needs.

274
275 Kayla Wells WSU extension. WSU return to work plan is being drafted which would provide additional
276 staff in the extension office. WSU students have been working on the Capstone project needs
277 assessment for the county and it will go live next week. The results might be used as a tool to help
278 generate interest in Okanogan County.

279
280 Tom Even Veterans Service Office, gave his update on the Veterans services provided. He is looking
281 for a part time employee with few applicants.

282
283 Pete Palmer gave a brief Planning update. Critical Areas and Comp Plan out for comment. Draft EIS
284 that is under legal review. Substantial comments were received on the Critical Areas so that may have
285 another public review. Well tracking software is live, also struggling to fill two open positions, getting
286 ready to initiate permitting software that is interactive with the public and hoping it will reduce the number
287 telephone calls into the office. Losing Ted Murray in the GIS department, so that position will become
288 open soon.

289
290 Commissioner Branch explained the county is planning to purchase a building for superior court
291 functions. A conditional use permit process through the city would be required if Juvenile functions were
292 moved. He left his door open if anyone wished to discuss concerns.

293
294 **Discussion-Conconully Lake Motorized Speed -Michael Ray**
295 Several people in the room who own property on Conconully lake.

296
297 Mr. Ray introduced himself he is a cabin owner on Conconully Lake for over 20 years.

298
299 He discussed OCC 8.52.150 boating regulations because he would like to amend the code to reduce
300 speed limit on Conconully Lake. There is a current eight mile per hour speed limit on lakes. He explained
301 areas are narrow on the lake and watercraft causes erosion on beaches and can damages to docks.
302 There is congestion on the lake as it is highly used for fishing and other recreational activities. Consider
303 speed limit restriction where the most populated areas are.

304

305 There is currently no speed limit other than what is in county code unless there is an exemption
306 somewhere. Commissioner Branch stated it is not an easy code to read. He read the county code section
307 8.52.150 out loud.

308
309 Commissioner Branch opened up to the audience to provide input, this is not a hearing and the board
310 is not considering a change. It would need to go through a public hearing process.

311
312 Peg Calloway, on behalf of Chris Culp, have been cabin owners for over 30 years on the lake. This was
313 negotiated when ordinance 80-6 was replaced. The really old ordinance restricted areas to be used for
314 skiing which included the narrow portion. This is a multi-recreational use lake with massive use. She
315 hasn't heard of any accident that would cause reconsideration of the current speed limit. It would take
316 away from the use of the lake. It was considered before and it really warrants taking a look at who uses
317 the lake and past uses of the lake. She said the county cannot just decide with only one comment to
318 reduce the speed because she and her husband have a cabin on the lake.

319
320 Damskov said at certain times of the year there is more recreational use than fishing on the lake.
321 Commissioner Branch asked and most attendees fish. Mick Howe owns a cabin on the lake and his
322 grand kids enjoy the water sports. A copy of the ordinance is posted on their cabin door. A treaty was
323 created which everyone abides by. Mr. Howe said the lake would not be the same, and he hopes a
324 petition is not filed as he believes this is a horrible thing to even propose.

325
326 Mr. Ray feels different than the folks in the room and use changes. He doesn't see violations of the rules
327 it is more the fact that earlier on in the year fishing is not as prevalent on the lake until it is warmer and
328 then water skiing and motor boats are more than half. Is there an alternative to be considered for those
329 who recreate or live around the lake? Commissioner DeTro said his initial thought was the lake was
330 controlled by Bureau of Reclamation. There is a highwater mark on the lake and it is down to bare rock,
331 in order for erosion to happen the lake would need to be full above where there is soil. He doesn't
332 personally see erosion as an issue.

333
334 Commissioner Branch believes the arrangement made in year's past by the folks on the lake seem to
335 work.

336
337 Mike Worden stated there have not been calls into dispatch that would bring this issue of speed to his
338 awareness.

339
340 Larry Gilman stated his family has owned a cabin on the lake for over 40 years. Conconully lake is a
341 multi-use lake and many use the lake in the community because it is closest lake to water ski on.

342
343 Commissioner DeTro stated it is Mr. Ray's decision whether or not he submits a petition to amend the
344 code. Commissioner Branch is not compelled to move forward with any changes. Mr. Ray said there are
345 many people in the room against changes. At this point he would like to know the next steps that would
346 include everyone and not just the few in the room.

347
348 **Approve Commissioners Proceedings**
349 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve June 7, 8, & 9, 2021. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
350 motion carried.

351
352 **Approve Consent Agenda**
353 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve consent agenda items 1-11 excluding item #8. Motion was
354 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

355 1. Memorandum of Agreement-Infrastructure Funds Emerging Opportunity-TV District #1

- 356 2. Agreement-Right of Way-Loomis Oroville Road -Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- 357 3. Special Occasion Liquor License-Winthrop Fire Fighters Ass. 6/10/21 Mack Lloyd Park Winthrop
- 358 4. CDBG Public Services No. 20-62210-011 Request #7
- 359 5. CDBG Public Services CV-1 No. 20-6221C-119 Request # 5
- 360 6. Appointment Letters Lodging Tax Advisory Committee: Steve Devin, Janet Warner, Don
- 361 Linnertz, Rachelle Haven, and Arnie Marchand
- 362 7. Appointment Letter -Methow Communications-Neil Rotstan
- 363 8. Resolution 65-2021 American Rescue Plan Act Funds
- 364 9. Resolution 69-2021 Signing Authority Debra Featherly
- 365 10. Resolution 70-2021 Authorizing Two At-Large Positions on the Board of Equalization
- 366 11. Resolution 71-2021 Plans & Specs CRP 3683-02 N Start Park City Bridge B-4
- 367

368 **Motion Form AD-3031 regarding Assurances for RBDG application**

369 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve form AD-3031 assurances for the RBDG application packet. Motion
370 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

371
372 **Motion Oroville Rural EMS District**

373 Commissioner DeTro moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Oroville Rural EMS District.
374 Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

375
376 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Interagency Agreement between Oroville Rural EMS and
377 the State Auditor for Data Sharing purposes. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

378
379 Commissioner DeTro moved to adjourn as the Oroville Rural EMS District and Reconvene as the BOCC.
380 Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

381
382 **Motion HCA CJTA Amendment #2**

383 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve and authorize the chairman's signature on the HCA CJTA
384 Amendment #2 agreement. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

385
386 **Motion Resolution 77-2021 Promotion of Darcy Klepec**

387 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve resolution 77-2021 promoting Darcy Klepec as lease probation
388 officer within District Court. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

389
390 The board adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

391