

1 **RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

2  
3 **OKANOGAN COUNTY**

4  
5 **JUNE 25, 2018**

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8 9:00 AM	Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda
9 9:15 AM	Briefing Among Commissioners – Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedule
10 9:30 AM	Discussion – Rural Development Programs – USDA Kirk Pearson
11 10:30 AM	Update Veterans Relief Board –Eric Fritts Michael Stewart
12 11:00 AM	Discussion-Sheriff Dispatch Contract-Mike Worden
13 11:30 AM	Update –Economic Alliance-Roni Holder-Diefanbach
14 1:30 PM	Update – Planning – Perry Huston
15	<i>Planning Dept. Study Session</i>
16	<i>Planning Administrative Study Session</i>
17 4:00 PM	Discussion –Methow Rapids Expansion Project Coordination-DNR Brett Walker

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20 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 26,  
21 2018, Chairman Commissioner Jim DeTro, Commissioner Chris Branch, Commissioner  
22 Andy Hover, and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

23  
24 8:45 a.m. Member of the public Robert Fuchs taking notes on his computer.

25  
26 **Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda**

27 Commissioners discussed their individual weekly meetings.

28  
29 **Briefing Among Commissioners–Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedule**

30 Commissioners discussed their calendar.

31  
32 **Discussion – Rural Development Programs – USDA Kirk Pearson**

33 Mr. Pearson provided the board with USDA rural development information packet.  
34 (attached) The information included a summary of major programs with definitions of  
35 objectives and types of funding for each.

36  
37 Mr. Kirk served 17 years in the legislature and senate of Natural Resource Committee  
38 and has been deeply involved in the wolf issue. He said he is trying to get more  
39 accountability to his agency. He was appointed by President Trump to the president of  
40 USDA agriculture for Washington rural development.

41  
42 Mr. Kirk explained the point question is how we help rural America. The state office is  
43 located in Olympia. He said it is enjoyable to visit those he serves and find out how they  
44 can serve the communities better. He is here to help. He highlighted several programs  
45 and issues that came out on the NW disparities. Expand broad band is a higher level  
46 problem in rural areas and explained how those problems start and how they can help.  
47 They work with Health Human Services. Mobile medical clinics were discussed as a  
48 way to reach remote rural communities and they work with the medical community with  
49 access. Over 100,000 employees work for Department of Ag.

50 Commissioners reviewed the materials provided and asked questions about the  
51 programs. The commissioners will provide Mr. Kirk with some information they have  
52 regarding the grizzlies and various other agricultural issues of concern.

53

#### 54 **Update Veterans Relief Board –Eric Fritts Dale White Michael Stewart**

55

56 Mr. Fritts provided the board with his update and discussed the information summarized  
57 there.

58

59 Mr. Fritts explained some issues with the new claims processing process at the  
60 Veterans Administration (VA). He provided a scenario where a client had sent  
61 information into VA on time for processing, but the info sat upon someone's desk until  
62 the deadline ran out. The process is not a complete process and it is still in pilot  
63 program mode. The issue may have a docket on the board of veteran's appeals which  
64 then moves it into a rapid decision making adjudication process. These are two  
65 programs still in beta mode before launching to everyone. They are not perfect and they  
66 still need work. Veterans may express to the board some of their concerns about the  
67 program and Mr. Fritts wanted the board to be aware of the programs.

68

69 Mr. Fritts explained a town hall meeting is scheduled in Omak on July 12<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 at  
70 Omak city hall. The meeting is held by the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee as  
71 designed by the Governor. The meeting is to address Veteran's concerns.

72

73 Mr. White commented that he worked for the VA for many years. He explained why  
74 programs are not fully implemented it is because the programs gain them more time for  
75 addressing claims. They find ways to delay the service by kicking back appeals on trivial  
76 issues. When he was there it was not uncommon to see appeals that are three to four  
77 years old. There are so many appeals to deal with by VA.

78

79 Mr. Fritts stated there are two line items in his budget that are 60% over. They are the  
80 housing and medical line items the BOCC reduced due to lack of use the year before.  
81 The housing program, through Community Action, has provided some housing services  
82 to veterans so Mr. Fritts veteran's housing line was reduced. But what Mr. Fritts has  
83 found is that our veterans program is subsidizing the housing program by OCCAC for  
84 an applicant's first month while paper work comes through. The medical line is in the  
85 red due to medical bills not getting processed through the VA program timely so our  
86 program is paying the bill. Commissioner Hover asked how the OCCAC program benefit  
87 veterans and how our program fits with that. Mr. Fritts explained some things yet to be  
88 worked out. It is his experience, when a veteran comes to his office and qualifies, they  
89 can receive assistance that day. But, at OCCAC it can take up to 30 days for a veteran  
90 to receive assistance. Rent assistance versus getting into housing are two issues. Mr.  
91 Fritts explained the limitations of our program which is a short term fix, OCCAC should  
92 be handling long term fixes. Mr. White explained the premise behind the short term help  
93 for the vet. Between the two programs the 30-60 day delay in getting veterans assisted  
94 by OCCAC is really hurting our program. Commissioner Hover thought the OCCAC  
95 Homeless program would provide more immediate assistance.

96 Commissioner Hover discussed sales tax and how that is collected by the state. If the  
97 voters added on a tax it may be done on a statewide basis with disbursements.

98  
99 Mr. Stewart with the DFW gets the \$25 from the state to file a claim, if they create a new  
100 program they would still get that, why can't the county tap into that to assist our  
101 veterans service program. Mr. Fritts said certified volunteers process their claims and  
102 we do not fit into that mold. We don't get that because Mr. Fritts is paid, and not filing  
103 though DFW or an organization like that.

104  
105 Mr. White said WDVA contracts with entities to provide training for that volunteer work,  
106 and they get \$25 per claim. Legislators said because it is a county program they could  
107 not provide a fix it would come from the county. It seems there could be a way to re-  
108 write that state law. Another county is creating their own program and he suggested  
109 taking a look at it.

110  
111 Mr. White thanked the commissioners and their staff for the assistance provided to both  
112 the vets and VSO office.

113  
114 **Discussion-Sheriff Dispatch Contract-Mike Worden**

115 Joe Somday

116  
117 Mr. Worden explained Fire District #11 returned their Dispatch services contract.  
118 Commissioner Hover said the city of Riverside wanted the additional breakdown of the  
119 services provided. Mr. Worden handed out the information with yellow column showing  
120 projections and new fees and it depends on what his 2019 budget looks like. He  
121 explained how the information was derived based on number of calls within that district  
122 not including the calls from within the city. Mr. Worden explained the charges when a  
123 city opts out but still receives coverage from a district. Riverside and Conconully  
124 population is similar to Pateros. Commissioner Hover said Winthrop contracts with Fire  
125 District #6 for fire protection services. He believes the volume of calls in the city should  
126 be included in that contract.

127  
128 Mr. Worden said he has had two lines of thought; cities don't have dispatch centers, the  
129 state went to a primary dispatching unit in the county, to support that is the per capita  
130 contracts that only contemplated law enforcement. What is outside that, is the Jr. taxing  
131 districts that are not part of a city or county and so that is what this contract deals with.  
132 The new contract addresses the non-city contract portion which is not currently being  
133 paid for.

134  
135 Mr. Worden explained the numbers are based on a three year history. The cost of each  
136 call is about \$27 per call and that is used to base the cost formula on.

137  
138 Commissioners said that, in order for the fire commissioners to understand the new cost  
139 formula, they wanted it broken down. Mr. Worden explained the base and the way it is  
140 fixed and projected/estimated annually. Mr. Worden previously sent out to each city his  
141 dispatch budget that he submits to the commissioners as well as everyone's volume so

142 they see everything. Mr. Worden explained the 120 fund can support a little less than  
143 half the cost of the call takers. The E911 tax doesn't cover all the costs.

144  
145 There are four main cost components involved.

- 146
- 147 1) The computer consoles -replaced in 2015
  - 148 2) Base control stations that signal to towers-at end of life with only about 2 years  
149 available for parts-parts not available after 2020.
  - 150 3) \$20,000 per site times 14 sites
  - 151 4) Mobile radios-end of life 2019
- 152

153 With three main components being at the end of life, in order to tread water on radio  
154 capacity will take around \$250,000. If the districts sign the contracts, it should bring in  
155 about \$70,000 and that will be used to replace some of the components. Commissioner  
156 Hover said the funds could be put in as a revenue line in 120 fund. Mr. Worden said  
157 Cari Hall suggested language be written into the contract directing the funds to its  
158 defined purpose.

159  
160 Mr. Worden explained the current contract does not have that language in it. Would the  
161 board wish to amend the contracts to include the language. Commissioner Hover  
162 thought a resolution would outline what the contract is to say in this regard going  
163 forward. Commissioners wanted the revenue stream to be received as separate  
164 revenue so districts can see it segregated.

165  
166 Mr. Worden discussed the level of service provided with the dispatch fees. He said he  
167 would relay his "cheat sheet" to the board.

168  
169 **Update –Economic Alliance-Roni Holder-Deifenbach**  
170 Perry Huston

171  
172 Ms. Holder Deifenbach provided her quarterly report and discussed the items listed  
173 there. One big project is the identification of infrastructure for new businesses. There  
174 are some gaps within in the PUD system. Working on types of financing through WA ST  
175 Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB). The PUD is eligible for the funding,  
176 and they will apply for the Public Works funds for substation upgrades. There is limited  
177 capacity for growth and businesses are looking at coming here, but these substations  
178 cannot handle the growth to serve. CERB was a great option but they minimum is two  
179 Million. PUD will be going through the pre application through the EDA. Disaster funding  
180 was discussed, but Okanogan County was not on the 2017 funding list.

181  
182 Ms. Holder Deifenbach explained that she has worked with company Chic Naturals for  
183 several years to locate the company here. They are now here and operating producing  
184 snack food made from garbanzo beans.

185  
186 Ms. Holder Deifenbach explained the process for prioritization will be different. In the  
187 past any type of application would be considered, so now they are going back to that

188 prioritization process. She provided the board with the timeline. By October when EDD  
189 starts their process our projects will be vetted and could be sent to the next step. A plan  
190 on how to get the word out was discussed.

191  
192 Director Huston explained the Comp Plan in going back to an earlier iteration there was  
193 a section on Economic Development, but it got stripped out. In the plan where Ag and  
194 timber is discussed there is no definitive policy on business recruitment statement in  
195 there. The plan doesn't support those types of business and there is not a designated  
196 place for them to go. Commissioner Hover thought it would be good to have something  
197 in there that lends some language in support of economic development. Commissioner  
198 Branch said there is a large array of businesses that we could generally state in a  
199 simple way. It is like a wood permit from DNR with a list of conditions on it.

200  
201 Ms. Holder Deifenbach explained she had been working with EM Goodall on those  
202 impacted by the flood. Many folks affected did not have insurance. Years ago folks in  
203 the floodplain were required to have flood insurance if they were paying a mortgage but  
204 once a property is paid for many did away with the insurance leaving people unable to  
205 pay for the damage cause by the recent flooding.

206  
207 **Update – Planning – Perry Huston**  
208 Gina McCoy, Jim Soriano, Salley Bull, Bill Forhan

209  
210 **Motion Tonasket Ems District**  
211 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Tonasket EMS  
212 District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

213  
214 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Tonasket  
215 EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$21,700 for the month of May. Motion was  
216 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

217  
218 Commissioner Hover explained the dispatching fees charged by the county. Director Huston  
219 relayed that the contract with Life Line is contracted says that Life Line pays those costs.  
220 Commissioners thought it would be good to discuss the fees with Aero Methow, Life Line and  
221 Fire District #15 who are contracted to provide EMS services. The commissioners would like to  
222 discuss the dispatching fees with the service providers. The commissioners asked the Clerk of  
223 the Board to invite Aero Methow, Life Line and Fire District #15 to a meeting to discuss the fees.

224  
225 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Tonasket EMS and Reconvene as the BOCC  
226 Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

227  
228 *Planning Dept. Study Session*

229  
230 Director Huston said the Planning Dept. had been borrowing a laptop for the Comprehensive  
231 Plan discussion, but it was determined the department actually needs one with an HDMI plug-in.  
232 The commissioners indicated the purchase of a new laptop was approved in the amount of  
233 around \$800-\$1000.

234

235 The Voluntary Stewardship Program was discussed. The program document will go to the  
236 Conservation Commission for adoption once the critical element is completed and the work  
237 group has completed their drafting and review. The Commissioners review process has not yet  
238 begun. The county has 90 days to complete their technical review and give feed back to the  
239 work group on changes or edits.

240  
241 Director Huston informed the board the Shoreline Master Program was adopted by DOE.  
242

243 Planning Commission meets tonight on cannabis operations. Commissioner Hover said written  
244 and oral testimony would be taken by the Planning Commission, but he asked if the comments  
245 already received have been incorporated into the document the Planning Commission  
246 considers. Director Huston explained the process and at what point additional comments would  
247 be taken by the county commission. Commissioner Hover said there is no time limit for indoor  
248 lighting to be on and if the structure has glass then the lights light up everything. In a rural area,  
249 those kind of lights being on constantly could be an issue.

250  
251 *WRIA 49*

252 Director Huston explained registration is being readied and gathered for the next step. City of  
253 Omak does not have a problem with moving the ball down the field. Commissioner Branch did  
254 some outreach to determine how many enrolled planning unit members are still in place. Some  
255 listed water right holders are still being verified. Commissioners reviewed the list of water right  
256 holders and those Planning Unit members in order to figure out how big it should be.  
257 Commissioner Hover thought an advertisement that covers WRIA 49 would be a good way to let  
258 those organizations know of slots available or pose the question of which group they belong to,  
259 then vet them, and see where the chips fall. Commissioner Branch thought an ad would be  
260 sufficient.

261  
262 DOE will work with the government and planning unit to review existing watershed plans to  
263 identify the potential impacts of exempt well impacts.

264  
265 We need to reform the planning unit and identify the lead agency. Ideal is water for same place  
266 same time, then working down the hierarchy from there net ecological benefit. But DOE said  
267 there are other things that can be used for mitigations, bank restoration, salmon recovery, but  
268 some are not universally acceptable. A draft ad and draft letter will be done for commission  
269 review.

270  
271 *Well Tracking Grant*

272 The county is working with Dept. of Ecology on this.  
273

274 *Comp Plan*

275  
276 *Planning Administrative Study Session*  
277 *WATV Routes (3:00)*

278 Tonasket Ranger Matt Reidy provided the Board with the Forest Service update. He relayed  
279 that the weather last night had caused some campers to be trapped. The FS is trying to cut  
280 their way into the forest to reach the campers. He discussed the difficulties involved. He  
281 stated the final SEIS for the Outfitter Guides is completed. The assessment needs were in  
282 the FEIS with highest use being used plus added 25% to that. The party size (12-18 +stock)  
283 barren core areas where camping at are the big take home points. The formal decision will  
284 be provided to the board. Commissioner Hover stated there was also concern about being

285 able to bring support people and why should those be counted if they pack out beforehand.  
286 State Aviation is part of the scenario as they have to update the airport master plan so  
287 knowing what FS is going to do for infrastructure planning unit is important to master plan.  
288 Mr. Reidy will check on it as he doesn't know what the level of detail is.

289  
290 Mr. Reidy explained he did review the WATV maps. There was a power outage that  
291 affected his district computers, but it appears it is okay. He said the WATV maps looked  
292 good.

293  
294 State DNR Recreation Ms. Wright said the map looks good. The tie-ins looked fine.

295  
296 Commissioner Hover discussed the Indian Dan Canyon area and asked if there were  
297 concerns with the tie-in loop there. Director Huston reminded the board of the public hearing  
298 on July 9 at which time the board will consider penalties for WATV. Engineer Josh Thomson  
299 explained the status of the signs and what is still being worked on in terms of public  
300 information. Commissioner Branch suggested LTAC funding for the WATV recreational  
301 signs. The Clerk of the Board reminded the board of the purpose the funds can be used is  
302 marketing and promotion. Engineer Thomson explained the 18x24 signs and what was  
303 compliant. The WATV sign symbol has not been created yet as it would be used  
304 Nationwide. WATV signage discussion will be ongoing. Commissioner Branch thought it  
305 might be good to sign roads that are closed rather than marking the open roads. Ms. Wright  
306 from the DNR explained signs she has seen with a line through a picture of an ATV.

307  
308 Ranger Reidy explained another issue regarding Snowmobile routes and infrastructure  
309 issues that he would like to discuss with the commissioners in the near future. He has some  
310 ideas about how to address the concerns.

311  
312 *Champerty Shores*

313 Director Huston discussed the Champerty Shores interest in creating a utility assessment to  
314 pay for the sewer and the only realistic way to capitalize the project. The reason he brought  
315 it up is because we would need to get on the ball and put things into place as there is a lot  
316 of leg work involved. Commissioner DeTro said it is contingent on an easement. Director  
317 Huston said that is another discussion without a fine point. He discussed the options.  
318 Commissioner Branch discussed the possibility of the City of Oroville processing the billings  
319 as a utility or utility improvement. Commissioners believe a conversation with the city should  
320 be scheduled. Director Huston is willing to negotiate the point and relay the commissioners  
321 wish to discuss the finer points as a board. Commissioner Branch made suggestions. The  
322 Treasurer has been informed in case the decision involves her office.

323  
324 *Lake Management District #1*

325 Assessor Furman had voiced concern about ballot deadline. It was not certain whether the  
326 August 1 deadline also was this deadline because the statute does say. A formal opinion  
327 was requested by the state. There is no local issue, statutorily we can do the work in plenty  
328 of time to do the collections. It may be theoretically possible to get it done by August 1<sup>st</sup>. If  
329 everything falls into place in time, and we have to meet the deadline then there could be

330  
331

332 time to meet the deadline. Commissioners Branch suggested they move ahead as though  
333 everything will be ready for the August 1<sup>st</sup> date.

334  
335 **Discussion –Methow Rapids Expansion Project Coordination-DNR Brett Walker**  
336 Mr. Walker explained the projects listed on the letter sent to the county on April 27, 2018.  
337 Commissioner Hover asked why DNR is involved. They get habitat credit. It was explained  
338 how that works and who is involved.

339  
340 DNR pays the Open Space classification rate for DNR lands. There is the timber program  
341 and this is the natural areas program, two separate programs. The purpose of the projects  
342 is to protect approximately 585 acres within the Methow Rapids Natural Area. Have some  
343 type of educational interpretive kiosk for school kids to learn from. That kind of outreach is  
344 very important to the program.

345  
346 The commissioners discussed various DNR and county roads and access to campgrounds.

347  
348 **Motion Mazama Trail Agreement Amendment #1**  
349 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the agreement amendment #1 for Mazama trail  
350 between WSDOT and the county and authorized the chairman to sign. Motion was  
351 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

352  
353 **Motion Teamsters Local Union #760-Public Works Administration**  
354 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the letter of agreement amending the Teamsters  
355 Local Union #760 agreement for Okanogan County Public Works Administration Collective  
356 Bargaining and authorized the chairman to sign. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,  
357 motion carried.

358  
359 The board adjourned at 5:00 pm.

360