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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

JUNE 5, 2023

8 **9:00 AM** Executive Session-RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)-Public Employee Review
9 **9:15 AM** Public Comment Period
10 **9:30 AM** Commissioners' Staff Meeting
11 **10:15 AM** Review-Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda
12 **10:30 AM** Discussion/Update-Apple Maggot-Will Carpenter
13 **11:00 AM** Discussion-Budget Review Methow EMS & Audit Winthrop's and Twisp's Payments-
14 **11:30 AM** Discussion-Opioid Interlocal Agreement
15 **11:55 PM** Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedules
16 **1:30 PM** Tentative-Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)-Potential Litigation
17 **2:00 PM** Meeting-VSP Water Bank/Conservation District Rate and Charges-Craig Nelson
18 **3:00 PM** Discussion-Noxious Weed Department Staffing-Larry Hudson
19 **3:30 PM** Tentative-Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)-Potential Litigation

21 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue
22 North, Okanogan, Washington on June 5, 2023 with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch;
23 Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; and the Clerk
24 of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

26 AV Capture and Zoom provided audio and video accessibility for public interaction.

28 **Executive Session-RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)-Public Employee Review**

29 Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 9:00 a.m. until 9:10 a.m. inviting
30 HR Director Shelley Keitzman to discuss the performance of a public employee under RCW
31 42.30.110 (1)(g). Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

33 Commissioners exited executive session at 9:10 a.m. no decisions were made.

35 Commissioner Hover stated there is some concern about the Federal Government taking
36 back county ARPA funds. Commissioner Branch discussed some articles he read about the
37 situation. Lagging contracts to obligate county funds are in the works.

39 Commissioner Neal arrived at 9:45 a.m. due to a personal business.

41 **Public Comment Period**

42 Isabelle Spohn, member of the public commented about vesting applications for land use and
43 appeared the application was done in a hurry as was the public hearing notice with errors.
44 Basically, she isn't sure how vesting could occur with all the errors in the application and the
45 public hearing notice. She foresees other issues as a result. She cruised the South Summit
46 road and saw forest thinning and looked at the roads in the event of escape from wildfire. She
47 saw that she would have no clue which road to take and there would be confusion using those
48 roads. She encouraged marking roads well for those trying to escape wildfire. South Summit.

50 Emily Sisson member of the public did not comment.

52 **Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

53 Planning Director Palmer stated she had nothing to report other than her department will be
54 very busy next week. She briefly discussed what was coming up.

55
56 Fairgrounds Manager, Naomie Peasley gave her staff report. She is moving forward with
57 purchase of floor cleaner, but none suggested had warranty. She said it was an emergency
58 and would purchase through Weinstein for \$11,000 as a quote was given for it previously.
59 She said she spent 4 hours mopping. Under section 8 she requested permission to purchase.
60 She has six quotes. Commissioner Hover asked for the bid award form for consideration.

61
62 Lees and Duke is going to work on the bathrooms this week. RV park is full in June. Meeting
63 with cleaner to subcontract cleaning of the Agriplex and Annex, pipe blew out in the irrigation
64 and getting that fixed. Commissioner Hover asked about water system for horse barn.

65
66 Joe Poulin provided his facility maintenance report. Justice Building has an irrigation leak in
67 the parking lot, he dug down at the T but didn't reach the spot. He suggested cutting a hole
68 in the asphalt to dig down further (5ft) and will hopefully get down far enough to reach the
69 leak.

70
71 Emergency Manager, Maurice Goodall reported that the burn restriction is set to go into place
72 June 15. Commissioner Branch mentioned how we could help place signage on South
73 Summit road to help mark the road for wildfire escape. He suggested DNR roads be signed
74 as well.

75
76 **Review-Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda**
77 Commissioners reviewed their agenda and consent agenda items.

78
79 Commissioner Hover explained he would be absent attending union negotiations today and
80 Tuesday starting at 10 a.m.

81
82 Commissioner Branch said Commissioner Overbay said the counties are ready to sign the
83 Opioid Abatement agreement and cities will have to deal with it separately.

84
85 **Discussion/Update-Apple Maggot-Will Carpenter**
86 Public Works Engineer Josh Thomson, Solid Waste Manager Kent Kovalenko

87
88 Pest Control Agent, Will Carpenter, provided his pest control report regarding the apple
89 maggot locations that apple maggot larvae and adult flies were found during the 2020 growing
90 season and discussed the potential quarantine options. He presented the map findings.
91 (attached) He said the South part of the county was mitigated and the quarantine dropped
92 off, but two sites between Ellisforde and Oroville one on Seaholm's road on irrigation property
93 remains the biggest problem site on the Mosquito creek pump station within the river system.
94 We have red Hawthorn and is where the pupae are being found. It would be extremely difficult
95 to mitigate that area. A sub committee of the apple maggot working group has been formed
96 to look at what a recommendation to the state for quarantine looks like. He explained who the
97 stakeholders involved are in the group that includes the bigger growers in the areas and the
98 meetings held and findings. The result is that the pump station area both north and south of
99 it was narrowed down and is still remains the problem. He discussed the recommendation of
100 boundaries is the first steps. The request from the working group is now in the state's hands.

101 There are many things to consider. The state will look at stakeholders and residents and will
102 conduct the impact statement. It is important that everyone is aware that the process is
103 starting.

104
105 Mr. Kovalenko asked about the two groups. Mr. Carpenter said there are two stakeholder
106 groups an apple maggot working group of the state WSDA and another group made up of
107 our apple growers. The apple growers' group is combing through the data of the apple maggot
108 working group so they can provide input to the state group. Mr. Kovalenko stated the county
109 solid waste is also a stakeholder and would like to be part of the discussion group. Mr.
110 Carpenter said there is no written definitive decision yet. It will be based on the fruit industry
111 suggestions to the state. The process for decision making is just beginning by the state. The
112 fruit industry wants to have a say as does the county, said Engineer Thomson. Mr. Carpenter
113 said the fruit industry group worked really hard and fought to be able to be included in the
114 decision-making process. This is the first-time stakeholders like this have been able to be
115 involved. Public Works would like to be part of the working group's recommendations being
116 submitted to the state since transport of the waste is going to be needed. The Pest Board
117 asked to be a partner in the state's decision-making process to provide data to minimize
118 impact of the quarantine on growers here, but this option has not been done before.

119
120 **Discussion-Budget Review Methow EMS & Audit Winthrop's and Twisp's Payments-**
121 The commissioners reviewed the district's Treasurer's Financial Statements from January
122 through May to ensure receipts are adequate to cover the disbursements. The Towns of
123 Winthrop and Twisp have submitted funds for the first half as well.

124
125 Commissioner Hover returned just before lunch recess. Commissioners discussed the
126 previous apple maggot discussion.

127
128 **Discussion-Opioid Interlocal Agreement**
129 Commissioners discussed the newest version of the draft. There was concern about each
130 county and city being responsible for administering the funds for approved purposes.

131
132 **Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedules**

133
134 **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)-Potential Litigation**
135 Commissioner Neal moved to go into executive session at 1:30 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. inviting
136 Esther Milner, Pete Palmer, and Tadas Kisielius. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
137 motion carried.

138
139 **Meeting-VSP/Okanogan County Water Bank/Conservation District Rate and Charges**
140 **Craig Nelson, Kim Colbert, Becky Drenner, Justin Stanley, Amy Ingle**

141
142 Mr. Nelson provided water bank program to start and rates and charges the collective funding
143 the conservation district receives.

144
145 Mr. Nelson explained the VSP working group members are meeting. The district is going
146 around with Washington State Conservation Commission due to a new requirement to
147 develop a monitoring plan that dedicates full time staffing. It got sprung on everyone that
148 wasn't a partnership minded situation. It said we shall have a person designated to monitor
149 year-round without explaining the scope. The districts stance is now to dedicate someone to

150 just monitoring to meet our plans goal rather than checking the boxes the state pushes for.
151 The state still seems to be pushing their own goals. Okanogan Conservation District is
152 meeting more often with other county conservation districts. There are 2- and 5-year reporting
153 requirements.

154
155 Would like to discuss renewal of the agreement. Monitoring plan is due next July, said Mr.
156 Stanley.

157
158 Mr. Nelson explained the DOE grant was signed after 10 months. We now have the funding
159 to acquisition the Upper Methow and begin working with commissioners to develop
160 agreement between district and the county on water banking. The first negotiation would be
161 about the water right in the Methow in Commissioner Hover's district and it was suggested
162 two commissioners be involved in the discussion. Aspect is going to help draft the language
163 and provide technical support for that. Need to determine how do we envision it working and
164 who has responsibility in operating the bank. Language might include Day to day operation,
165 first point contact, who is responsible for reporting to Ecology each year, who is going use
166 and disburse the water. Leaning management of water for ag, but there is also domestic and
167 other residential uses, municipal demands and any of those would be run through the county.
168 Users would come to the county through the permitting process, but conservation district
169 would issue to the county. Mr. Nelson said water could be leased, that way it comes back to
170 the bank rather than being relinquished when the water is no longer needed. Who is going to
171 be the first point of contact? Commissioner Neal said he would. Commissioner Branch looks
172 forward to working on this with the Conservation District.

173
174 Mr. Nelson discussed the rates and charges. Their rates and charges system gets approved
175 by the county commissioners and is good till 2026. The rates and charges bring in about
176 \$145,000 which pays for staff to write the grants. It isn't enough to pay for a vehicle they use
177 to meet with residents who are asking for service. The entire city of Omak has petitioned to
178 annex under the current rates and charges, but it will increase the total income by only \$5,000.
179 Need high standard software system, proper archiving ability to be fiscally accountable and
180 are not chargeable to grants and those costs can be around \$15,000 or more. The district
181 can only save the revenue from rates and charges for savings, the grant funds are not. They
182 may request an increase once the rate study is complete. The most the annual charge can
183 be is \$5.00 per parcel. Commissioner Branch discussed the other assessments the county is
184 responsible for.

185
186 **Discussion-Noxious Weed Department Staffing-Larry Hudson**

187 Larry Hudson explained staffing issues are a concern for the season. He asked the
188 commissioners to consider a budget supplemental appropriation. He also stated the Noxious
189 weed office hours will be reduced due to lack of staffing. The Noxious weed board approved
190 the office to be open Monday Tuesday and Wednesday and closed on Thursday and Friday
191 which are slower office days anyway. Commissioner Branch asked Mr. Hudson to think about
192 attending the radio on open line to discuss. Mr. Hudson said he wasn't opposed to it. He said
193 the Lake Management District was approved Prosilicore for use in Canada and he has got
194 Ecology's blessing to treat the lake in July. The patches needing to be treated will be gps'd
195 beforehand.

196
197 There is also difficulty in scheduling vendors to spray when residents need them to. They are
198 swamped.

199
200 The newsletter went out to all the landowners as planned.
201
202 **Motion Appointment Letter TV District #1 Justin Delfino**
203 Commissioner Neal moved to appoint Justin Delfino to TV District #1 and authorized the
204 appointment letter. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
205
206 The Clerk of the Board discussed the electronic surplus sales and title document process.
207
208 ~~Tentative-Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)-Potential Litigation~~
209
210 The board adjourned at 3:19 p.m.
211
212 Laleña Johns, CMC Clerk of the Board Jon Neal, Member