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**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**OKANOGAN COUNTY**

**JUNE 8, 2021**

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**9:00 AM Commissioners Staff Meeting**  
**10:25 AM Public Hearing Supplemental Appropriation-Fairgrounds**  
~~**10:30 AM CANCELLED Update-Auditor's Office-Auditor Cari Hall**~~  
**11:00 AM Update- Public Works- Josh Thomson**  
**1:30 PM Board of Health Meeting-1234 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S, Okanogan**  
**3:30 PM Public Hearing- Pest Control Assessment Proposal-Commissioners**  
**4:30 PM Approve Commissioner Proceedings May 24, 25 & June 1, 2021**  
**4:45 PM Approve Consent Agenda**

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The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on June 8, 2021, with; Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

Commissioner Jim DeTro was absent today for personal reasons.

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

**Commissioners Staff Meeting**

Pete Palmer, Maurice Goodall

Planning Director Palmer provided her planning update. She asked for authorization to purchase the permitting software from Facility Dude where costs would be shared among the departments using it. Commissioner Hover would like the program to integrate with public health but doesn't want to hold up the purchase while integration is sorted out. He would like to do a budget review before the decision to purchase is made.

Emergency Manager, Maurice Goodall stated a fire in Riverside displaced four people. There was another fire at Golden Doe. Some rain over the weekend helped with fire conditions. River levels are high but normal.

Mr. Goodall provided a draft resolution that would change the typical language used for burn ban. (attached) A copy of a Draft Recreational fire burn permit as well as a Draft permit for agricultural burns was submitted. (attached) Commissioner Hover suggested the burn ban be more of a calendar event rather than setting a certain date a burn ban would automatically begin and end by ordinance. He prefers flexibility in the process. Commissioner Branch reviewed the OCC 8.32 and thought it could define the Fire Advisory Board roles better. The board would like an email sent to Forest Service, DNR and District Fire chiefs regarding changes to the code that would alleviate confusion and receive feedback on setting an annual burn ban date on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day in June as a standard. Mr. Goodall will generate the email to those groups.

Joe Poulin provided his maintenance update. He stated he received some phone quotes for gates for the north end and the cost is between \$1100 -\$780. The septic tanks were pumped on the north end and the root problems were found in the clear tank and none in the solids tank. He suggested

52 replacement of the Willow trees causing the problem with a fast-growing tree such as Maple. The trees  
53 provide shade to the grounds.

54  
55 Mr. Poulin is meeting with a system engineer today at 1:00 p.m. who may review and provide a  
56 professional opinion on our geo thermal system. Commissioners have been reviewing the geo thermal  
57 specs noted in the handbooks prepared by AMERESCO. The question is why the system cannot be  
58 set at the recommended settings. It sounds like the system was built before we knew what the well  
59 capacities were going to be.

60  
61 Mr. Poulin said the City of Omak has a PTO driven Versa Vac, yard vacuum, they want to surplus as  
62 they are purchasing a new one. The city asked if we would be interested purchasing the old vac for  
63 around \$5,000. The county currently has a small residential yard vac , but the bearings are going out.

64  
65 The RV park irrigation was discussed because complaints were received due to dry grass and dust.  
66 Commissioners want watering of the RV parks to be priority so the lawn appears well cared for.  
67 Maintenance is keeping the grass long to maintain moisture. There isn't enough water pressure to  
68 water both north and south grounds at the same time and still have adequate pressure for RV park.

69  
70 Commissioners would like the trees on the VG grounds to be looked at by an arborist and trimmed as  
71 the tree has dying branches in the middle. When quotes are provided the Commissioners would like  
72 a list of who as called for quotes and the amount quoted.

73  
74 Quotes of DIVCO were provided for the IT Department water cooled system. Commissioners would  
75 like additional quotes from others vendors to be provided for consideration.

76  
77 Naomie Peasley provided her update of the fairground events. The Fair Advisory committee requested  
78 an update of the South RV park irrigation upgrades. An electrician is needed to determine load values  
79 for two new pedestal sets. Last year the board discussed setting a long-term rate for wildland fire  
80 camping. Commissioner Hover asked that the fairgrounds fee schedule be updated to include rates  
81 for wildland fire camping. Commissioners want to ensure appropriate compensation for use of the  
82 grounds and don't want to confuse private contractors with DNR crews.

83  
84 Ms. Peasley said she helped the Rabbit Barn superintendent apply for a grant through Confluence  
85 Health to help pay for things for the rabbit barn. She is still meeting with the city Chambers regarding  
86 the ecology block plan and working to create the appropriate contracts. She spoke to Gary George  
87 about purchasing the blocks. She said another Camp host was allowed who would back up the other  
88 and both are on the grounds overseeing the campers.

89  
90 Superior Court is meeting with public health about going back to the way they were leaving the  
91 fairgrounds. It does sound promising. Won't move forward with planning until they are gone. Have not  
92 hired anyone yet for office help, extended advertising another two weeks. Only received two  
93 applications so far for the full-time temp position. Filling positions has been extremely difficult in every  
94 sector. Track material is blowing away, and concerns about that were discussed to apply materials to  
95 retain moisture. Moses Lake uses material that is not available. Call different tracks and learn what  
96 materials are used to retain moisture. 18 loads of water were applied to the grounds and it is was dried  
97 out again in two days. There is a solution.

98  
99 Lumber slabs in Jones Hall 14x2 thick boards that no one knows what they are to be used for. Ms.  
100 Peasley suggested using them for window sills for serving areas.

101  
102 The Clerk of the Board relayed the request from Kathy Powers for better access to the annex kitchen  
103 door for catering purposes. Commissioner Hover would like an access road at some point to the food

104 court area. See if the county can meet with Berg Trust Fund group to discuss use of the funds retained  
105 by the county. Ms. Peasley will talk to Ms. Powers about the requested access.

106  
107 **Update Human Resource/Risk Management Tanya Craig**  
108 Ms. Craig explained a notification was received of a modification to the grant contract to provide  
109 additional funds for defense charges regarding Blake Decisions. These funds are paid up front.

110  
111 **Motion Public Defense Grant Fund Agreement No. GRT21033**  
112 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the chairman to sign the Washington State Office of Public  
113 Defense grant Limited Public Defense grant funds for cases regarding the Blake Decision in the  
114 amount of \$21,288. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

115  
116 A budget supplemental for revenue and expense is necessary.

117  
118 **Public Hearing Supplemental Appropriation-Fairgrounds**  
119 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing to staff. Ms. Peasley stated in December Northwest  
120 Farm Credit donated funds for wheel chair assessable door in the 4H building in the amount of \$5200.  
121 Commissioner Branch closed staff and opened up for public comment, seeing no one to comment, he  
122 opened up to board discussion.

123  
124 **Motion Budget Supplemental Appropriation Resolution 66-2021**  
125 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 66-2021 a budget supplemental within current  
126 expense fairgrounds fund in the amount of \$5,200. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion  
127 carried.

128  
129 **Discussion Joint Chiefs Program Application**  
130 Craig Nelson was asked to meet and discuss the Joint Chiefs program that is funded through sister  
131 agencies through USDA. Under these programs the Forest Service targets projects to improve habitat  
132 among other things and Conservation District (CD) can also do some work for better bang for the buck.  
133 Commissioner Branch asked if this is a joint application. Yes, DNR has been leading the application  
134 writing and CD will help with line items budget for things like home hardening, forest treatments, forest  
135 treatments on private lands and outreach that will happen in the priority areas. DFW is also involved  
136 for Golden Doe property.

137  
138 **Motion Joint Chiefs Letter of Support**  
139 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the letter of support for application for funds from the USDA  
140 Joint Chiefs Initiative to implement priority projects throughout the Okanogan-Wenatchee National  
141 Forest. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

142  
143 **CANCELLED Update-Auditor's Office-Auditor Cari Hall**

144  
145 **Update- Public Works- Josh Thomson**  
146 Kent Kovalenko

147  
148 *Solid Waste Update*  
149 Mr. Kovalenko provided a Solid Waste update. Department of Ecology reached out regarding money  
150 still available to spend it out for green waste processing. So, two events will happen for green waste  
151 which the funds will help pay for treatments at the Twisp Transfer Station. The green waste events are  
152 June 11 & 18.

153  
154  
155  
156

157 *Maintenance & Road Conditions*

158 Engineer Thomson said getting ready for chip seal projects. Working with Oroville crew to seal bridge  
159 decks with product left over from last year. Finding everything is very hard to get right now, unsure if  
160 striping paint will be available.

161  
162 Fuel rates will hopefully stay where they are.

163  
164 *Old 97 Construction Project*

165 Doing final grading this week with paving next week and it will be a lot better. The road is very rough  
166 due to overwatering.

167  
168 *6-Year Transportation Program*

169 Projects sitting on the list remain unfunded since before he started with the county that do not rate  
170 high enough and he believes we should take them off such as Robinson Canyon and a road towards  
171 Airport Rd. Roads that are falling apart are of higher priority to the Engineer. He didn't want to remove  
172 them without the board's okay.

173  
174 Commissioner Branch discussed the Oroville area projects as he'd like to go through those projects  
175 with the Engineer for the improvement park with makes things happen on the rail and reload capacity  
176 is important. If the city isn't considering alternatives maybe a round a bout should be installed. The  
177 industrial movement is a big deal there. We don't have to depend on DOT and state funding as we  
178 can go after Economic Development once we have a proposal. Engineer Thomson said there are  
179 three alternatives: continue straight west, fix the intersection or go around to James loop the other  
180 way. Commissioner Branch stated the private land owner is the obstacle and condemnation isn't being  
181 considered. Pick the best alternative. Right of way is an issue and may be possible to obtain  
182 depending on costs. A round a bout could be a \$1 million-dollar project. Talk to the businesses there  
183 about alternatives. More information is needed to place the project on the 6-year transportation  
184 program. Commissioner Branch would like to explore it to see if we can make it work.

185  
186 In the past the board has talked about adding Rodeo Trail road which is low priority. Other funding  
187 might be explored for the improvements. Get businesses, EDD and Economic Alliance involved.

188  
189 *Consent Agenda*

190 Twisp recycle center lease agreement was briefly discussed.

191  
192 Engineer Thomson will be at conference the rest of the week.

193  
194 Commissioners adjourned until after the Public Health Meeting.

195  
196 **Board of Health Meeting-1234 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S, Okanogan**

197 Commissioners attended the board of health meeting and returned around 3:00 p.m.

198  
199 **Public Hearing- Pest Control Assessment Proposal-Commissioners**

200 Larry Gilman, Will Carpenter

201  
202 Champerty Shores HOA Debbie Smith, Dick Ewing, Shannon Lantrip, Tephon Tomaszewicz, Sarah  
203 Ness

204  
205 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing stating the hearing to hear comments and consider a  
206 proposal for assessment to provide funds for the purpose of Horticultural Pests and Disease control.  
207 The Pest Board held a public hearing and provided a recommendation to the Board of County  
208 Commissioners of a flat rate per parcel plus a per acre rate per commercial orchard acre. The total  
209 revenue of \$135,202.75 would be resulting from the assessment. Will Carpenter restated that we

210 already have a \$2.25 per acre assessment for commercial orchard acre and the recommendation is a  
211 \$1.61 per parcel assessment countywide.

212  
213 Commissioner Branch called for comments on the proposal.

214  
215 Dick Ewing provided a written comment and a verbal comment. (attached) He talked about Hawthorn  
216 and rosehips being hosts for Apple Maggot and family back yard trees where the owner is not aware  
217 of vegetation hosting the maggot. The Farm Bureau agrees we should pay attention to this threat to  
218 commercial fruit growers. The single flat fee per parcel be applied evenly across the county. The apple  
219 maggot in an orchard the apple grower is responsible for taking care of it. Combining pest and weed  
220 board

221  
222 Debbie Smith personally wanted to listen, but commented that in the last few years they've been taxed  
223 additionally for removal of milfoil under a separate tax. She isn't in favor of another tax that she wouldn't  
224 see a benefit from. She said the \$1.61 sounds a bit insignificant.

225  
226 Shannon Lantrip Okanogan said he has two tax parcels one with little value and the other with the  
227 house, would he be taxed on both, yes. The small amount of the tax to help keep the apple industry  
228 is a drop in the bucket and needs to be done. He is in favor of the assessment, but if we cannot take  
229 care of the apple maggot problem in the valley we will lose the vital industry we have here.

230  
231 Larry Gilman, Assessor, commented on the proposed. He can accommodate in his system, there will  
232 be a cost to incorporate but won't be much. Per parcel charge and what that is. Noxious Weed and  
233 Conservation was applied to all parcel numbers, but we are only addressing legal parcels so there  
234 would be slightly less than 47,100 parcels. Exemptions for senior 1, could be reduced a little (500 or  
235 less) for those if the language in the resolution states that. If the county adopts a resolution before July  
236 31 then the assessment applies to 2022 but if the county adopts a resolution after July 31 then the  
237 assessment applies to 2023.

238  
239 Commissioner Hover proposed that this hearing be continued leaving open written and public  
240 testimony to June 22 and Clerk of the Board republish the notice with the current RCW recital.

241  
242 **Motion**

243 Commissioner Hover moved to continue the public hearing to June 22 at 10:00 a.m. keeping open  
244 written and verbal testimony and directed the Clerk of the Board to republished the notice with the  
245 correct RCW. Motion was seconded, Commissioner Branch said the public testimony be closed until  
246 that date but anyone can send in written testimony beforehand. All were in favor, Motion carried.

247  
248 Dick Ewing added a point of clarification that the \$2.25 is applied to per planted commercial acre. Yes,  
249 since around 1995. The board recognizes that having Okanogan County part of the Tri-County Pest  
250 Board arrangement will provide more benefit to the industry. Will Carpenter said he is doing a lot of  
251 work in Okanogan County to address the apple Maggot sites in Okanogan County and is one of the  
252 reasons for Okanogan County joined the Interlocal Agreement to pool resources of the adjoining  
253 counties. Commissioner Branch noted that hobby farms with a few fruit trees are somewhat  
254 responsible for spread of pests not just commercial growers. Our economy depends on the success  
255 of the tree fruit industry. Commissioner Hover stated if some commercial orchardist is to survive they  
256 must sell off a portion of their land. Looking at it holistically, it helps keep the rural agricultural part of  
257 our county intact and vibrant.

258  
259 Commissioner Branch closed the hearing.

260  
261  
262

263 **Motion Resolution 68-2021 Homeless Housing Funds Authorization**  
264 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 68-2021 approving \$40,000 from the Homeless  
265 Housing Fund 142 to help with rental assistance.  
266

267 **Motion Interlocal Agreement OCCAC Homeless Housing**  
268 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the interlocal agreement between Okanogan County and  
269 Okanogan County Community Action Council for Homeless Funds in the amount of \$40,000. Motion  
270 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.  
271

272 **Approve Commissioner Proceedings May 24, 25 & June 1, 2021**  
273 Commissioner Hover moved to approve Commissioners Proceedings of May 24, 25 & June 1, 2021.  
274 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.  
275

276 **Approve Consent Agenda**  
277 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-6. Motion was seconded all were  
278 in favor, motion carried.

- 279 1. **Agreement Amendment #5-Department of Veterans Affairs**
- 280 2. **Agreement Voluntary Stewardship Program No K2217- WA St. Conservation Commission**
- 281 3. **Purchase Approval Request - Two Sheriff Patrol Vehicles \$128,400**
- 282 4. **Lease Agreement-Twisp Recycling-Public Works Solid Waste**
- 283 5. **Contract Legal Newspaper Printing 2021/2022-Sound Publishing**
- 284 6. **Special Occasion Liquor License-June 17 Fairgrounds-Marilyn Taylor**

285  
286 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**  
287 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those  
288 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a list,  
289 and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to approve  
290 the regular vouchers in the amount of \$808,516.08 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of  
291 \$1,139,644.97 Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and  
292 carried.  
293

294 **Motion Public Health Voucher**  
295 Commissioner moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in the amount  
296 of \$70,212.00 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$51,173.20. Warrant numbers as cited on the  
297 attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.  
298

299 **Motion Methow Valley EMS District**  
300 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Methow Valley EMS  
301 District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.  
302

303 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Methow Valley  
304 EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$58,867.75. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,  
305 motion carried.  
306

307 **Motion Tonasket EMS District**  
308 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS and reconvene as the Tonasket  
309 EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.  
310

311 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Tonasket EMS  
312 District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$16,200 to Life Line for July Services. Motion was  
313 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.  
314

315 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Tonasket EMS District and Reconvene as the BOCC.  
316 Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

317

318 **Motion Oroville Rural EMS District**

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

321

322 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Oroville Rural EMS  
323 District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$9,680 for May. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,  
324 motion carried.

325

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

328

329 A claim for expenses was submitted by Superior Court for airline tickets which included costs of  
330 upgraded airline seats. Since the travel policy doesn't address additional costs for upgraded seats, the  
331 employees would responsible to pay the difference.

332

333 **Motion Superior Court Claim for Expenses**

334 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Travel Claim for Expenses of Superior Court's for airline  
335 tickets in the amount of \$2089.20 not including the cost of the upgrades Voucher number 203460 in  
336 consideration of the base fare amount of \$2089.20. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion  
337 carried.

338

339

340 The board adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

341