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**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
OKANOGAN COUNTY**

**MARCH 12, 2024**

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**9:00 AM Review Meeting Minutes March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**9:15 AM Public Comment Period**  
**9:30 AM Legislative Update-Zak Kennedy**  
**10:00 AM Update-Public Works Engineer-Josh Thomson**  
**10:30 AM Update-County Auditor-Cari Hall**  
**11:00 AM Bid Award-Radio Tech Vehicle-Mike Worden**  
**11:30 AM Discussion-Carelon Contract-Esther Milner**  
**12:00 PM Approve Meeting Minutes March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**To Follow Approve Consent Agenda**

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The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on March 12, 2024 with Chairman, Commissioner Jon Neal; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Chris Branch; and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

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

**Review Meeting Minutes March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Clerk of the Board updated the Board on several items including items: Attorney Esther Milner wanted to update the indemnification in the Homeless and Affordable housing contracts. Courthouse ADA Safety projects to include improvements to landscaping and parking in front of the courthouse. Getting vendor quotes to be presented to the board later.

She informed the commissioners that she met with Rena Shawver to discuss CDBG grant prospects and go over the county's process for CDBG grants. She said OCCAC has funding needs due to Commerce Consolidated Housing Grant funding reduction from \$200,000 per month to \$12,500. OCCAC's immediate need were funds for building roof membrane \$150,000 and later possibly \$150,000 for match money for housing development in partnership with another entity.

She said a Task Order she received the Engineering Task Order 1-Jail Heat Designs from TD&H engineers but it generated questions she had about the proposed design. The firm was not clear why the proposal was for a water-to-water heat pump system versus a closed loop system that would avoid issues with the well sediment. Commissioners would like to discuss the project with the engineering firm before considering the Engineering Task Order 1-Jail Heat Designs from TD&H engineers. A meeting will be scheduled.

Commissioners discussed the Town Riverside's request for ARPA funds for their water line.

Commissioners discussed Mr. Lantrip and his property being removed from Open Space Ag classification

**Public Comment Period**

Members of the public, via zoom: Ruth Hall commented on AV Capture having technical difficulties. Ms. Jackson said Omak town hall has resolutions posted online and asked the County about the where the drafts the county was those drafts are located. The Clerk of the Board agreed to provide those

AMMC joined but had no comment.

53 Ferry County Commissioner Mike Heath arrived to the meeting at 9:32 a.m. but had no comment

54

55 **Legislative Update-Zak Kennedy**

56 Mr. Kennedy provided his legislative update. Legislative session is over. He discussed initiatives that  
57 passed such as Parents Bill of Rights Act, no state personal income tax, reasonable police pursuits.  
58 Initiatives that did not pass were HB 2117, 2109, 2124. Mr. Kennedy said they are starting to tie  
59 programs to cap and trade and capital gains taxes for things that have been funded for years by other  
60 money but because they switched the funding source around where the money comes from for these  
61 programs will likely see advertisements to repeal the capital gains tax and cap and trade that will now  
62 fund these programs but if voters do away with the tax later it will ultimately make funding for those  
63 programs that benefit kids go away.

64

65 Commissioner Hover asked who was running for seats. Mr. Kennedy said the open house seat at the  
66 state level and Cathy McMorris Rogers has several staffers interested. It will likely come down to  
67 Maycumber and Balm Gardener. In 7<sup>th</sup> District he had no idea but would not be surprised if Wes McCart  
68 puts his hat in and Brian Dansel is looking at a federal level seat. He didn't really know. Mr. Kennedy  
69 said just because session ended doesn't mean the Board can't reach out to him with questions. It will  
70 be a busy campaign year but he is available either way. He thanked the commissioners for their time.

71

72 Ferry County Commissioner Mike Heath, present in the audience, said Ferry County lost their judge.  
73 Commissioner Hover asked him if he was still a commissioner for Ferry County and he replied yes for  
74 one more week until March 25, 2024. Commissioner Heath said Ferry County Superior Court Judge  
75 is also leaving. He said he hardly sees his seat mate Ferry County Commissioner Brian Dansel.

76

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

78 Member of the Public Buck Workman, Ferry County Commissioner Mike Heath, and Assessor  
79 Appraiser Mike Farrrens

80

81 Engineer Thomson provided his public works agenda and discussed the items there.

82

83 There are quite a few road restrictions still in place especially in the Methow due to warmer weather.  
84 Some areas with lower temps remained open during certain times.

85

86 We will be returning to summer hours, which are four, 10-hour shifts.

87

88 Oroville crew is doing some trail cleaning and maintenance on the Similkameen trail.

89

90 Cameron Lake Road project were discussed. Sent an email to tribe asking for confirmation. Director  
91 of CCT and DOT said they do not wish to respond to say they do not want to go forward it was  
92 intentional. The federal side of the funding is now shifting to a chip seal project as the majority was  
93 RAP funded so funding rolls back in to the RATA fund.

94

95 We are about \$100,000 into the project so Engineer Thomson said he will need to go to CRAB to  
96 request that we do not have to pay it back. He thinks we have a pretty good case not to have to pay it  
97 back. Commissioner Hover believes Engineer Thomson did his job right and asked that it be put behind  
98 us.

99

100 CRAB is doing a grant effectiveness study and Engineer Thomson is part of that study group. They  
101 are exploring changing current programs and exploring different programs that would bring changes  
102 to funding for bridges under 20 feet and local access roads as there is not funding right now for those.

103

104 Engineer Thomson discussed the items on the consent agenda and asked if there were questions.  
105

106 Mr. Workman said Mike Farrens and him are here to discuss Okanogan Wildlife Council as they  
107 discovered the road they've been using does not have a legal access to it. He asked what it will take  
108 from them to be granted an easement. How much would it cost to obtain legal access. The property is  
109 near the county landfill and the Sheriff's office gun range. The Public Works gravel pit is up there too.  
110 The current contract with the wildlife council is only good until 2037 so they are looking at something  
111 in perpetuity. Commissioner Hover discussed some things that could happen that would make it harder  
112 to do and he wanted to make sure they could continue accessing their range property. Topography  
113 does not lend to another access location. Engineer Thomson said it would be good to work something  
114 out since the pit is good for another 15 years. Commissioner Hover asked how can we protect the  
115 access through a permanent easement? It is a matter of survey and could be as generic as needed.  
116 Mr. Farrens asked if the county has a record showing. Mr. Workman showed the county documents  
117 drawn up by Mr. Pecha that showed where the road turns off and asked if the county would be willing  
118 to accept a meet and bounds description as the road lies now. Commissioner Branch said it is  
119 essentially a paper survey. Engineer Thomson said it is property rights that were granted and the  
120 easement requires a proper survey. Mr. Buckman said he understands their responsibility in paying  
121 for a survey as the county cannot use public funds that benefit a private group. He prefers to do it  
122 sooner than later. Commissioner Branch said he would be willing to consider if the survey is done.  
123 The easement would be the width of the road 40 feet, 20- feet on either side of the center line, said  
124 Engineer Thomson. Commissioner Hover stated a resolution would be needed. Mr. Farrens said they  
125 have been using the road longer than he has been alive for over 52 years longer than the gravel pit  
126 has existed. Something could be drawn up using aerial photos showing use over the years that could  
127 prove it. Commissioner Hover stated the survey option was preferred. Mr. Farrens said the property is  
128 used as a rifle range, an educational facility, kids use it for 4-H, hunters education program, it isn't just  
129 a member only organization it is used by the community too. Commissioner Branch said it provides a  
130 public service for youth and all those things and not for profit programs for the community it is a right  
131 to use, but we also drive on the road to access the gravel pit. Commissioner Hover said there has to  
132 be some sort of agreement that this is a mutually beneficial situation. Would the county then be  
133 responsible for the survey, and recording fees? A resolution with recitals about community service and  
134 mutually agreeable, non-exclusive easement? Mr. Farrens said there is a gate across the road that is  
135 locked but everyone that needs a key has one. The wildlife group is responsible for the survey, the  
136 county will discuss it with Esther Milner. Commissioner Branch would like to join online.

137

138 The listed present left the meeting.  
139

139

#### 140 **CANCELLED Update-County Auditor-Cari Hall**

141

#### 142 **Discussion Superior Court/Juvenile Administrator Position-Judge Grim, HR Director Keitzman**

143 Judge Grim explained he is looking to fill the Superior Court/Juvenile Administrator Position. His  
144 preference is to split the two positions. It spreads one person too thin. He was here to request the  
145 split of the position and answer any questions the board had about the request. Information for  
146 the job descriptions is being gathered for the Juvenile Director. Commissioner Hover asked how  
147 many juveniles are in the facility. Will need to weigh how we get the funding in order to justify.  
148 Judge Grim said it isn't only juvenile detention there are other services serving around 30 staff  
149 and detention. They are trying to find comparables. Commissioner Hover isn't sure how many  
150 positions Therapeutic Court funds, but hiring two people will cost more than one and asked if that  
151 fund could off set some of the salary of the dependency unit in order to fund costs. Judge Grim  
152 said some funds were set aside for judicial officers, a stipend is provided as well. Commissioner  
153 Hover said because of the increase in minimum wage and disparity in wage between minimum  
154 wage workers and higher management is very narrow now and the county has to think about that.

155 There are some things to discuss in the judicial branch to keep all of the things going. Ms.  
156 Keitzman said once Mr. Rabadou comes back with comparables then she will bring this back to  
157 the board. She said there is also a need to train whoever is coming into the positions before Mr.  
158 Rabadou leaves in June. There is the possibility of hiring internally. Commissioner Hover said he  
159 prefers to hire internally since those individuals usually have experience. Judge Grim said they  
160 are thinking about that.

161

162 **Motion Closed Session RCW 42.30.140(1)(b)**

163 Commissioner Hover moved to go into closed session at 10:40 a.m. until 10:50 a.m. under RCW  
164 42.30.140 (1)(b) to review mediation proceedings inviting HR/Risk Manager Shelley Keitzman.  
165 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

166

167 **Bid Award-Radio Tech Vehicle-Mike Worden**

168 Chief Communications Deputy Mike Worden explained he reviewed the bid received and that was  
169 opened on March 11 from Spokane Dealership for the service van for Radio Tech position and  
170 has come back with a recommendation.

171

172 Chief Worden stated the bid meets the requirements and was for \$71,321.58 including delivery  
173 to Okanogan. The alternative is use of the State Bidding contract but comes with a 4-6 month wait  
174 minimum with \$4,000 difference. His recommendation is to proceed with the vehicle bid and  
175 recommended the board move to award the bid today.

176

177 Once vehicle is received it will go into the ER&R program so that we have some funds coming  
178 back for replacement.

179

180 **Motion**

181 Commissioner Branch moved to authorize the Chief Worden to purchase of the vehicle from  
182 Wendle Ford in the amount of \$71,321.58. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

183

184 Commissioners reviewed the quote that Undersheriff Dave Yarnell provided from GW-LE for the  
185 weapons.

186

187 **Discussion-Carelon Contract-Esther Milner**

188 Chief Civil Deputy Esther Milner discussed the contract for opioid abatement with Carelon. She  
189 said nothing concerned her in the contract and she doesn't see any risks. She thought now would  
190 be a good time to round table discuss the proposed decision.

191

192 This is the opioid abate council and Carelon. We will be sending the funding to them looking at  
193 our priorities and providing contracts on then they use the funds. Commissioner Hover wants to  
194 make sure any Funds coming into the county for this and hopes as part of the council we are  
195 sending information, he is opposed to sending all our money then have them look at our priorities.

196

197 Commissioner Hover said he would rather send our 10% with our projects to review and determine  
198 those are in line with what we expect. Mr. Rabadou said that was agreed upon by Chelan County.  
199 Carelon is the contract manager to do what Commissioner Hover said to review the county's  
200 project and release.

201

202 Commissioner Branch asked if our priorities were made. Mr. Rabadou said we have not submitted  
203 anything. Priority areas projects can be done within have been identified. Commissioner Branch  
204 said what we are committed to fell within those priorities. Ms. Milner said there is also technical  
205 assistance available through the contract.

206 Commissioner Hover said 10% administration was set for identifying where we could use the  
207 money. Commissioner Branch said the exhibits listed what the priorities of the agreement were.  
208 He is looking forward to having the project approved by the council as we would have a payment  
209 to Chelan County for that report on the SIM Mapping that Connections with Communities in crisis  
210 response made. Commissioner Hover asked what are they really looking at? A response between  
211 the different entities and how they deal with persons with opioid disorders. Commissioner Branch  
212 was nervous about the question. Commissioner Hover asked what is the county going to get out  
213 of the report. Commissioner Branch said the meeting with Connections who was at the community  
214 level meeting was to evaluate Okanogan County and its crisis responders in any particular  
215 situation as it applies to opioid abuse. When they looked at those things, how that information  
216 expected to be used. Commissioner Branch said what emerged is that we are not in conflict and  
217 harming anyone involved and knowing what crisis response means and that the one in crisis is in  
218 a place to heal.

219  
220 In reviewing the draft contract to understand the flow of the money and authorize the use of the  
221 funds with an agreement that is clear on what our money is spent on is clear. Money is coming  
222 from opioid abatement funds and Carelon would be awarding the funds based on the county's list  
223 of priorities said Ms. Milner. There is a long list of what the money could be spent on.  
224 Commissioner Branch said everyone has their priorities but there is potential for a more  
225 centralized project the counties join aside from the work of Connections in dealing with crisis  
226 response. There is a long list of priorities. The community members involved at the county's  
227 connections meeting would come together and form Okanogan County's list of priorities. Ms.  
228 Milner said the commissioners should set some time on their agenda to start setting the priorities  
229 that would then be run through the abatement council. Commissioners discussed there is a lot to  
230 look at and who participates in developing the priority list.

231  
232 Ms. Milner said she did not see any gaping concerns with the contract between Chelan County,  
233 Douglas County, Grant County. If there are no concerns we should let Carelon know, but they are  
234 still waiting to hear from all parties.

235  
236 Commissioner Branch discussed the request for permanent access easement to the property of  
237 the Wildlife Council and the county's desire to provide permanent access easement that will be  
238 captured in a survey they provide. The commissioners do not want it to look like a gift of public  
239 funds because it provides a community benefit, shooting range, education etc....

240  
241 Commissioners recessed until 3:00 p.m. when they return from the Board of Health meeting.

242  
243 The Clerk of the Board mentioned receiving the response from the Fairs Program Administrator  
244 Ann Norman and Melissa Anne Ayvas Archaeologist Senior for the Confederated Tribes of the  
245 Colville Reservation regarding the Fairgrounds Well safety Grant.

246  
247 **Approve Meeting Minutes March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
248 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5, 2024 as  
249 corrected. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

250  
251 **Approve Consent Agenda**  
252 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items less 3, 6, and 8, as presented.  
253 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

- 254 1. Employment Agreement-Fairgrounds Facility Manager-Nicholis Bates  
255 2. Interlocal Agreement-Solid Waste Management-Town of Riverside

- 256 3. Cattleguard Renewals-CGF# 110-73, N-240, N-241, N-242, 75-73, N-79, 2-89, 86-73, 5-73, 16-94,  
257 40-98, 96-73  
258 4. Appointment Letter-SWAC Board Alternate Pos. #1-Darby McNeil  
259 5. Appointment Letter-Television Reception Dist. #1 Pos. #2-Patrick Barker  
260 ~~6. Agreement-Homeless Housing Funds-Housing Authority of Okanogan~~  
261 7. Contract-Pateros Mall Improvement Project Design Phase-Okanogan County & City of Pateros  
262 ~~8. Interlocal Agreement-Building Inspection Services-Okanogan County & City of Pateros~~  
263 9. LTAC Contract-24-009 Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival \$5,000  
264 10. Interlocal Agreement-Building Inspection Services-Okanogan County & City of Pateros  
265 11. Interagency Data Sharing Agreement-Okanogan County & Office of the WA State Auditor  
266 12. Contract-Oroville North End Transmission Main Replacement Planning-City of Oroville  
267 ~~13. Contracted Services Agreement-Okanogan County Homeless Shelter~~  
268 14. Resolution 37-2024-Rescinding Resolution 160-2023 & Amending Granting Signing Authority to the  
269 Fairgrounds Facility Manager  
270 15. Resolution 38-2024 Authorizing ARPA Funds Allocation for Oroville Fire Department Genesis  
271 Extrication Tools Equipment up to \$55,000  
272 16. Resolution 39-2024-Approving Affordable Housing Fund Allocations for Use in 2024  
273 17. Resolution 40-2024-County Road Project-Chesaw Drainage Project-CRP NO.9480-10  
274 18. Resolution 41-2024-County Road Project-Old 97 Rd. Plata to Ophir Project-CRP NO. 9155-21  
275

### 276 **Motion Letter of Objection**

277 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the Letter of Objection for Cannabis Operations of due  
278 to noncompliant with local authority. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.  
279

### 280 **Motion WSLCB Notice of Cannabis Operation**

281 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the chairman to sign the WSLCB notice regarding  
282 applicant Cannabis Operations license No. Motion was seconded, Commissioners discussed  
283 the notice questions to determine their disapproval and make clear on the notice what their  
284 objection was No, No, Yes was determined. All were in favor, motion carried.  
285

286 Undersheriff Dave Yarnell explained the Sheriff's request to Purchase weapon  
287

### 288 **Motion ARPA Funds Approval-Sheriff's Equipment**

289 Commissioner Hover moved to approve \$122,000 for purchase of equipment using ARPA funds  
290 and direct the Clerk of the Board to draft the resolution consistent with ARPA funds allocation  
291

### 292 **Motion**

293 Commissioner Hover moved to acknowledge Mike Fort position #2 on the Methow Watershed  
294 Council for a term of three years. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.  
295

### 296 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

297 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those  
298 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a  
299 list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to  
300 approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$758,522.40. Warrant numbers as cited on the  
301 attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.  
302

### 303 **Motion Oroville Rural EMS District**

304 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Oroville Rural EMS  
305 District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.  
306

307 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Oroville Rural  
308 EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$19,057.00 for Life Line Serves for February.  
309 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

310  
311 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Oroville Rural EMS District and Reconvene as the  
312 Tonasket EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

313  
314 **Motion Tonasket EMS District**

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

317  
318 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Tonasket EMS  
319 District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$16,200 to Life Line for February Services. Motion  
320 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

321  
322 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Tonasket EMS District and Reconvene as the  
323 BOCC. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

324  
325 Commissioners discussed the request of Community Action for \$150,000 for a roof membrane  
326 replacement for their building using county ARPA funds. An ARPA resolution will be prepared by  
327 the Clerk for the OCCAC building roof membrane for consideration to allocate the funds.

328  
329 Commissioner Neal discussed Terri Swanson would entertain offers for her property adjacent to  
330 the courthouse. The commissioners would like to discuss this further and look into the possibility  
331 starting the conversation with the Assessor.

332  
333 The board adjourned at 3:30 p.m.