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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

MARCH 18, 2024

9:00 AM Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda
9:05 AM Review Meeting Minutes-March 11th, 12th, 2024
9:15 AM Public Comment Period
9:30 AM Discussion Building Demo at Railroad Ave-Mike Worden
9:45 AM Commissioners Staff Meeting
10:30 AM Update-Veterans Relief Board-Thomas Even
11:00 AM Public Hearing-Code Revision OCC 2.84 County Security Committee Expansion
11:30 AM Discussion-Fairgrounds Scope of Work RFQ Fairgrounds Water System-
11:45 AM Approve Commissioners Proceedings-March 11th, 12th, 2024
To Follow Approve Consent Agenda

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on March 18, 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 Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda

Commissioners reviewed their consent agenda and agenda.

Review Meeting Minutes-March 11th, 12th, 2024

Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes.

Public Comment Period

Emily Sisson, member of the public commented that on Sunday She reviewed the CGI's Community Video Tour of Okanogan County. There are two problems I found that should be corrected if the commissioners decide to update the video.

The first problem is easy to fix. In the Health Services chapter of the video, the narrator refers to "central Wisconsin's far reaching programs..." at about the 1:03 mark.

The second problem is the video snippet used when the video tells us that the county has the "largest Nordic ski trail system in the United States." Both the Welcome and Tourism chapters use that phrase, and instead of using video with beautiful blue skies and skiers flying over the snow, both chapters use video showing us the ankles and feet of several people who are simply walking on skis. I bet Methow Trails would be able to provide video that shows both the beauty of the county and the quality of Nordic skiing available. Also—thanks for the clock!

Mrs. Jackson commented that she would like information about how OCCAC is in going to provide housing for the unhoused if there is no housing. She would like to know as she has talked with many unhoused and they are not getting help... Their people need more boots on the ground to reach out more often to the unhoused...

54 **Discussion Building Demolition at Railroad Ave-Mike Worden**

55 Mr. Worden stated this was regarding the replacement of the old SAR shop with the new Sheriff
56 Equipment and Coroner Storage building. He submitted to the city for a building permit, waiting for MJ
57 Neal to respond on the placement versus the original drawings change. April 3 publishing a small
58 works project for the demolition of the old building. Commissioner Hover said he didn't think we could
59 break the project up and in order to get bids for each piece since the cost is estimated at close
60 \$300,000. He recommended checking with PW Engineer to recommend the proper bidding process.

61
62 Chief Worden stated he has notified and made the Mobile Command Unit available to the Fire Chiefs
63 Association and emergency agencies to look at. Commissioner Neal stated he wondered about
64 showing it at parades so the people can see what their tax money was used for.

65
66 **Commissioners Staff Meeting**

67 Fairgrounds Manager Nick Bates asked the commissioners to consider the waiver for Parents to
68 OBHC Parents Easter Egg hunt as they are a nonprofit and want provide an Easter egg hunt on the
69 fairgrounds to disadvantaged families with young children and children with special needs.

70
71 **Motion Fee Waiver Easter Egg Hunt Parents to Parents**

72 Commissioner Hover moved to waive the Fairgrounds total rental fee for the Parent to Parent Easter
73 Egg Hunt on March 23, 2024 on the fairgrounds and authorized the chairman to sign. Motion Was
74 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

75
76 Mr. Bates wanted to present a fairgrounds fee scheduled change because he does not fee the rates
77 reflect what it actually costs to rent the race track and arena. The month to month horse boarding falls
78 under a different liability. Overnight boarding is different and that is alright as is emergency boarding.
79 He will provide a red line change document. Commissioner Hover stated he didn't know we provided
80 month to month boarding.

81
82 The new horse barns are also available and isn't only for race horses. The Boots and Saddle Club did
83 donate for race horse use during the fair, said Commissioner Hover. It was thought that the race horse
84 trainers would also keep their race horses in those barns for training on a monthly basis. The idea was
85 the race horses would be left at the grounds for a month at a time. The fee schedule doesn't actually
86 state that use and it should. Boarding horses for training is different than regular boarding. Race horses
87 have priority for use of the new barns, said Commissioner Hover. The other commissioners agreed
88 that there should be a difference between board horses for race training and regular boarding. Mr.
89 Bates will submit a new fee proposal together. The race horse trainers cannot just leave the horses
90 there overnight they need to be there.

91
92 Fairgrounds maintenance is cleaning up around the buildings. Mr. Bates is going through all the
93 buildings taking an assessment for grading purposes. Commissioner Hover made Mr. Bates aware of
94 all the money put into the fairgrounds, over \$1 million, for race track, grandstands, arena, etc....

95
96 Mr. Bates will look for an A19 that was submitted to Teresa Norman with the Dept. of Ag with the
97 invoices. He will inquire of Central Services for any email that Ms. Peasley sent to Dept of Ag.

98
99 Maurice Goodall Emergency Manager updated the board on the CWPP meeting that had very good
100 discussion, going over maps and good participation. He hopes the next meeting has even more
101 participation.

102
103 Building Official, Dan Higbee stated the City of Brewster sent him the Building Inspection Services
104 Contract. He asked the board to consider the contract. He also said the State did not adopt the WUI
105 Code and they won't until the maps get updated.

106 Planning Director Palmer gave her staff update. The Senior Planner position was filled as well as the
107 two planner I positions. She wondered if she could bring on another Planner I to shadow Liz before
108 she leaves.

109
110 Ms. Palmer said she took Mr. Kottkamp's contract version for Hearing Examiner position to attorney
111 Esther Milner to review and she made some changes and some things were negotiated, but he is
112 already scheduled for hearings on March 28 and April. She will have the contract available this week
113 for board to sign. Commissioner Hover stated the past hearing examiner made some good cases and
114 was fair, but he wanted to make sure whatever the verdict is, is what the commissioners will support.
115 Ms. Palmer stated the new examiner will sit down with planning staff to learn the ropes and will make
116 time to meet the commissioners too.

117
118 **Motion – Special Voucher Approval - Commissioners**
119 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those
120 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a list,
121 and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to approve
122 the regular vouchers in the amount of \$71,321.58. Warrant numbers (230071) as cited on the attached
123 blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

124
125 **Update-Veterans Relief Board-Thomas Even**
126 Thomas Even, Eric Fritts, Dale White, Mike Stewart, and several others.

127
128 Thomas Even provided his update. Working with OCCAC on several homeless veterans' outreach
129 activities.

130
131 They had some success on the Twisp outreach and more and more people are attending and will
132 extend to a whole day event instead of half.

133
134 Nespelem had an open house last month and some came in for claims.

135
136 Vince McDonald in charge of the Tribe's Veterans office. There is a Job fair July 18.

137
138 The PACT Act has been at the forefront this year. Seeing a lot of claims under Agent Orange.
139 (attached)

140
141 Mr. Jim has finished TRIP training and is in the process of getting his paperwork completed for the
142 Stakeholder Credentials so he can provide the claims preparations. Commissioner Hover asked what
143 that entails. The paperwork needs to be explained to the applicants.

144
145 Many calls are coming in due to the VA outsourcing their opinions due to not having enough doctors.
146 There are five independent doctors that work in conjunction with VA that give opinions on applications.
147 They cover twenty states and are pretty reputable so more help will be provided to the veterans.

148
149 Dale White provided some informational materials to the BOCC, but not to the Clerk of the Board. He
150 explained the materials. Some of the information was the 2024 VA support on ending homelessness.
151 One thing missing is who is applying for the \$52.5 million to prevent veterans' suicide and he isn't sure
152 if there is an agency going after this money or not. Commissioner Hover stated OCCAC might be able
153 to apply for the homelessness funds, but for the suicide issue OBHC. Mr. Stewart stated only certain
154 agencies can apply for the grants. The number of claims coming in under the PACT Act has
155 overwhelmed the system due to positions being vacated due to being overworked. Mr. White explained
156 the claims process and how the decisions are rendered and based upon. Even after they are denied,
157 under the PACT Act, they can be re evaluated and the PACT act covers. The Adjudication process
158 and supposed to have three board members on each case, but now they have done away with the

159 medical doctor and now they only have one legal person looking at it. Mr. White said he wants to
160 ensure our veterans get their fair share of this money, he suggested a development of tiny homes to
161 house the homeless. Okanogan County doesn't appear to be going after these moneys. They need
162 someone to look at these grants to take advantage of the funds. Another thing that would improve
163 care to veterans is funding new care and studies for new medicines.
164

165 Mr. Fritts explained the software used for processing the veterans and what can be shared and what
166 the software can do to share information back and forth with Chase Team. If they go to SSVA they
167 would not have that in their metrics. Working it out but it isn't as accurate as it could be. Commissioner
168 Hover explained Community Action Council and others are involved in housing developments that
169 help those in poverty. He said if there is money out there that could be used then Community Action
170 might be a good agency to apply. Need good data on veteran homelessness to use, do they want to
171 be housed, do they want the help. How do we quantify the homelessness of veterans in the county?
172

173 Tiny homes have been discussed before and would be one way to address this. Do younger veterans
174 have the same rate of homelessness as the older ones? Mr. White said there are couch surfers and
175 those are usually females but some are male. They have not figured out how many. Then there are
176 those without running water or in a shell of a camper and would be considered homeless as they do
177 not have the basic facilities. Commissioner Hover stated if tiny homes would be transitional until they
178 people can transition to a permanent home. It works for some and others not so much. Some have no
179 interest. Commissioner Branch provided the info to the Veterans Board for the tiny homes meeting
180 that OCCAC is holding this afternoon.
181

182 Commissioner Neal left at 11:00 a.m. for the canvas meeting.
183

184 **Public Hearing-Code Revision OCC 2.84 County Security Committee Expansion**

185 Commissioner Hover opened up the hearing and provided an explanation for the needed modifications
186 within county code for the county's Security Committee. Seeing no public who wished to comment, he
187 closed the public hearing and opened up to the board.
188

189 **Motion Ordinance 2024-2**

190 Commissioner Branch moved to approve Ordinance 2024-2 adopting a revision to OCC Chapter 2.84
191 regarding the County Security Committee. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
192

193 **Discussion Conferencing Tools**

194 Karen Beatty explained that it would be best to duplicate the conference room set up for the
195 commissioners hearing room as it would be easier to use and more versatile. 85 in monitor and easier
196 to use the better. Commissioner Hover stated TEAMS and Zoom would be able to use the platform.
197 Ms. Beatty stated the Planning Department would also like the same set up in their office.
198 Commissioner Hover said every department should have the space with the ability for video
199 conferencing. Ms. Beatty said each system will need a Microsoft license. She did not budget for that.
200 Commissioner Hover said the BOCC can find the money for these tools.
201

202 Ms. Beatty stated the courtrooms also would like similar upgrades and one courtroom would cost
203 around \$47,000 per courtroom. Commissioners would like to discuss further once all quotes are
204 obtained.
205

206 **Discussion-Fairgrounds Scope of Work RFQ Fairgrounds Water System-Commissioners**

207 Commissioner Branch explained the county published an RFQ for the engineering of the Fairgrounds
208 Water Systems that would address the DOH. Commissioner Hover said DOH is concerned with
209 quantity and quality of water and to make sure the Class A public water system is safe. Commissioner
210 Branch wants someone technically trained to design and ensure the system design is appropriately
211 designed for public safety use. Right now, we will collect qualifications from Civil Engineering groups

212 for evaluation later. Commissioners discussed what they hoped to accomplish and the budget needed
213 for the evaluation. Commissioner Branch explained a water right on the reservation that someone
214 wanted to sell, but transferring it to another entity was a no go. Commissioner Branch explained his
215 interaction with Tyson Carlson on that. The water rights were issued by the state at one time.

216
217 **Approve Commissioners Proceedings-March 11th, 12th, 2024**
218 Commissioners would like to wait until tomorrow to make additional corrections.

219
220 **Approve Consent Agenda**
221 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-10, as presented. Motion was
222 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

- 223
224 1. Contract-2024 Liquid Asphalt-Idaho Asphalt Supply Inc.
225 2. Contract-2024 Soil Stabilizer-GMCO Corporation
226 3. Interlocal Agreement-Infrastructure Funding Winthrop Riverwalk Planning Only-Town of Winthrop
227 4. Agreement-Vending Machines-Vending Group
228 5. Agreement-5-year Homeless Housing Plan-WestEast Design Group
229 6. Resolution 42-2024-Budget Amendment Parks & Rec Fund 125 \$87,410
230 7. Resolution 43-2024-2025 Countywide Guardrail Safety
231 8. Resolution 44-2024-2024 STP Chipseal \$156,490
232 9. Resolution 45-2024-Allocating ARPA Funds Sheriff's Office Safety Equipment \$122,000
233 10. Resolution 46-2024-Allocating ARPA Funds OCCAC Roof Membrane Replacement \$150,000
234

235 **Motion Resolution 47-2024 Planner I Training**
236 Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 47-2027 approving a temporary situation to
237 allow two planner I positions to be paid from one BARS code for training purposes prior to one
238 planner leaving the county. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

239
240 **Motion Building Inspection Services-City of Brewster**
241 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Building Inspection
242 Services between Okanogan County and the City of Brewster. Motion was seconded, all were in
243 favor, motion carried.

244
245 **Discussion Sheriff Grant Discussion**
246 Sheriff Budrow stated the Sheriff's office applied for a grant and was one agency out of the only
247 two that was awarded. He explained how the funds can be used. The program is running off
248 Omak's core program. Michelle Danielson helped with the application. The Sheriff will hire one
249 person dedicated to coordination between the sheriff's office responders and others and will help
250 with crisis but won't be pulling the DCR, it will be more to help us figure out what to do with a
251 person instead of putting them in jail. Start is January 1, 2025. Chelan County already has the
252 program so coordination with neighboring county will be important. Commissioner Hover said if
253 we can eliminate issues with putting people in jail that do not belong there. Commissioner Branch
254 said it will help sort out some issues and help us understand what is working and what needs to
255 work better and coordinate throughout the whole county.

256
257 Commissioner Hover said we also have opioid money that can be used on projects and
258 connections. If the Sheriff looks at the identified priorities in order to reduce opioid use to be sent
259 to the opioid council to vet then we can use the counties money. Sheriff said data mining and
260 identifying what works in order to obtain more funds to use here and regionally.

261
262 Commissioner Hover and Branch discussed water banking and ideas of what kinds of water would
263 be utilized by the county for the bank.

264
265 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**
266 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those
267 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a
268 list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to
269 approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$653,426.53 and Payroll vouchers in the amount
270 of \$1,136,327.92. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded
271 and carried.
272
273
274 The board adjourned at 11:36 a.m.