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**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**OKANOGAN COUNTY**

**MARCH 21, 2022**

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**9:00 AM Review Commissioners Agenda & Consent Agenda**  
**9:15 AM Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedule**  
**9:30 AM Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(I)**  
**10:00 AM Discussion-Building Dept. Staffing-Dan Higbee**  
**11:00 AM Bid Opening-Legal Newspaper Bids-Commissioners**  
**11:30 AM Update Fairgrounds-Naomie Peasley**  
**1:30 PM Discussion Policy Review Proposal-Commissioner Branch**  
**To Follow Review Meeting Minutes - March 14, 2022**

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The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a Public Hearing at 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on March 21, 2022 with Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, Commissioner Jim DeTro; and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

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

**Review Commissioners Agenda & Consent Agenda**

Commissioners reviewed their agenda and discussed the addition of an executive session at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon regarding RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g).

**Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedule**

Commissioners continued their discussion on prioritizing the county's ARPA funds and alternative projects that are shovel ready.

Commissioner DeTro said Fire District #4 is concerned about the county's new communication system because the districts feel the DOT radios do not communicate well in Okanogan County. A cost analysis showed it is not cost effective for districts to change over to the radios. Commissioner Branch said we do not want this to become fractured. It was thought that there was VHF channel study that showed there were less available channels than needed. Commissioners would like to discuss this matter further with Chief Worden and EM Goodall.

**Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(I)**

Commissioner Branch moved to go into executive session at 9:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. inviting Planning Director Pete Palmer, Rocky Robbins, and Chief Civil Prosecutor Esther Milner to discuss RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i). Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session was extended at 10:00 for another 30 minutes.

Executive session ended at 10:30 a.m.

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**Discussion-Building Dept. Staffing-Dan Higbee**

Dan Higbee stated there was an early retirement happening in June of the Building Dept Secretary. He would like to hire for the position now so training can happen before the employee retires. A resolution would be needed to make the position a Permit tech/Admin Secretary so no matter which secretary is gone everything can be taken care of.

Mr. Higbee stated his budget was adopted at a higher rate since a higher step position was funded.

**Motion Direction that a Resolution be Drafted-Permit Tech/Admin**

Commissioner Branch moved that Dan Higbee work with Tanya Everett to prepare the resolution, Commissioner Hover invited Ms. Everett to discuss this matter. Ms. Everett stated this was discussed with her and Shelley previously. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Hover discussed the irrigation district worry of being out of compliance. Legislatively through UCSRB he pledges to work with the bureau and he wanted to make sure the other commissioners are alright with that. Commissioner Hover represents Okanogan County on the Recovery Board. Commissioner Branch said if the concerted effort is favorable to the UCSRB then he was in favor of this too. Collectively it is agreed upon, said Commissioner Hover.

Forest Health hopes we can get as much of the forest cleaned up as we can, said Commissioner Hover. Commissioner Branch said the Forest Health Collaborative's goal is towards that end. He explained some of that recent work of the Collaborative and encouragement by the DNR to get more done.

Commissioner Hover relayed that the county has a AA- rating, all our bonds sold, so we will get proceeds April 7. We need to get the ball rolling on getting all of our contracts going for the Architect. He wants to make sure everything is ready to go when it needs to be. Josh Thomson will be managing the project bid documents and working with the architect for that purpose.

At what point will the county move the ARPA funds under the Loss of Revenue category as provided in the recently adopted rule. Commissioner Branch stated the board needs to go through the projects to prioritize them.

**Bid Opening-Legal Newspaper Bids-Commissioners**

Commissioner Hover stated the time for receiving bids is past.

Two bids were received and opened

Gazette Tribune

The bid was opened and reviewed by the Chairman. The cover letter proposal was read. The dummy ad invoice amounts were read. Combined bid of Methow Valley News and Oroville Gazette Tribune.

Omak/Okanogan Chronicle

100 The bid was opened and reviewed by the Chairman. The cover letter proposal was read.  
101 The dummy notice ad invoice amounts were read.

102  
103 The clerk of the board will review the bids for responsiveness and will return her findings to  
104 the board by the bid award date. March 22, 2022.

105  
106 Commissioners discussed their agenda process.

107  
108 **Update Fairgrounds-Naomie Peasley**

109 Commissioner Hover explained how Okanogan County is a service driven county. He  
110 suggested the fair also be considered something the county is doing for the community.  
111 Personality issues we have must be fixed. What is going on that is creating the strife and  
112 other stuff and move beyond it. Ms. Peasley stated she had a fairground's update that she  
113 would like to discuss first.

114  
115 Ms. Peasley said she reached out to three suppliers and would like to move forward with the  
116 purchase of the building using the lumbering employees fund. It is purchasing a racehorse  
117 barn building. The agreement with the Tribe for them to build it for us is being drafted by the  
118 prosecutor's office. Commissioner Hover wanted to ensure the building was purchased  
119 correctly. What is the payment agreement? Ms. Peasley said any Tribal member would be  
120 able to use the grounds for personal use for free and two events per year for free for three  
121 consecutive years in a row. She wants to order the building now.

122  
123 Three quotes were provided: (attached)  
124 Capital Steel Industries \$59,390  
125 GWB-Great Western Buildings \$84,314  
126 Ebay \$122,236

127  
128 Commissioner Hover asked that Steel Building of America also quote.  
129 Ask Boots and Saddle how much they will write the check for? Check with the Team Penners  
130 too.

131  
132 Bids for starting gates was discussed.

133  
134 Bids for South Electrical will be changed.

135  
136 Audit and counting the gate money at the fair, talked about vets and senior discounts this  
137 year. Commissioner Hover said it is difficult to figure for the Treasurer Staff. Ms. Peasley  
138 stated she took over the money from the Treasurer this year. She already spoke to Auditor  
139 Hall and Treasurer McCormack about it.

140  
141 **Commissioner Branch suggested we** order the building based on a plan B in case the  
142 agreement process holds things up, he is not sure what will be delivered to the tribe or what  
143 that looks like, in terms of what we expect as an exchange. He also noted that we make sure  
144 the project complies with bid law; If the project is \$300,000 or more the project cannot be  
145 broken up to avoid the threshold. Commissioner Branch advised that the agreement with the  
146 tribes should be established first before moving forward with the rest of the project. The  
147 project arrangement cannot be done the same way if the cost is over \$300,000.

148 Commissioner Hover discussed additional costs of cement pouring of the pilings, ground prep  
149 etc.... The ground work is getting donated, said Ms. Peasley.

150  
151 The diseased trees on the fairgrounds were taken out as previously discussed with the board.

152  
153 Ms. Peasley stated a public records request was completed and she said the commissioners'  
154 office was responsible for completing it from here. She left a thumb drive with the clerk.

155  
156 Ms. Peasley explained why the commissioners hired her and why she is so emotional. She  
157 explained why the fairgrounds is a revolving door. She drew a picture to illustrate why she is  
158 so beat down. She agrees there are people not playing well in the sandbox right now. She  
159 asked for the support of the BOCC in carrying out her job.

160  
161 Commissioner Hover stated the county has put more effort, more money, and more people  
162 into the grounds than any other in five years. What is the definition of support that she is  
163 expecting from the board. He felt a commissioner should sit on the FAC and Commissioner  
164 Branch agreed that could help.

165  
166 Ms. Peasley read from her list of talking points of frustrations. Commissioner Branch advised  
167 that the discussion needed to slow down as he felt the emotion keeps escalating and he is  
168 afraid it will get out of hand again.

169  
170 Wanda Christman Fair Queen mom said reminders were sent in and things haven't been  
171 addressed at the FAC level. Things were not getting handled at the FAC meetings even  
172 though Ms. Peasley was providing the FAC with the info.

173  
174 Commissioner Branch discussed the commissioners' role in the fairgrounds. He said salaries  
175 provided to the position have gone up immensely. Commissioner Branch listed changes:  
176 changes were made due to the conflict and various other reasons. Then staffing maintenance  
177 at the grounds was changed to provide the fairgrounds with separate staffing because of the  
178 conflict that happened.

179  
180 Commissioner Branch pointed out that during public meetings the BOCC deals with many  
181 things besides the Fairgrounds.

182  
183 Commissioner Hover thought by providing staff support to the FAC that that would provide  
184 the support Ms. Peasley is asking for.

185  
186 The FAC budget is not set in stone and they can ask the BOCC for things not budgeted for.

187  
188 Commissioner Branch stated it is going to take a big team effort. He pointed out that there  
189 are other employees in the county that have to deal with the public and know it is a part of  
190 the job. Finding a solution rather than putting people on trial is a better way. The intent is to  
191 make it happen harmoniously without throwing people under the bus.

192  
193 If people need to be removed then that is what they must do. There are rules we must abide  
194 by, and at some point, if someone cannot follow the rules said Commissioner Hover said they  
195 may need to be removed. We must be professional.

196

197 Barn supervisor said what she thought was happening is that Naomie has to stop everything  
198 to help people. If she had a volunteer at the front door or a buffer that could be the go between  
199 would be helpful. The Commissioners noted that A resolution from the board is ~~what is~~  
200 ~~holding up~~ pending for another staff person who would start in May.

201

### 202 **Discussion Policy Review Proposal-Commissioner Branch**

203 Commissioner Branch discussed policy reviews he would like to see happen regarding  
204 meeting notice. He stated a written policy allows everyone to know what it is and allows  
205 flexibility.

206

207 Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records policy would clarify things for people.  
208 Commissioner Branch shared a few basic policies he had written outlining procedures for  
209 weekly meetings.

210

211 Commissioner Hover discussed things in conflict.

212 The commissioners' legal descriptions were not adopted at the public hearing in the adopted  
213 map. The legal descriptions were adopted via the ordinance not by the adopted map prior.

214

215 Who has the revised legal descriptions for their districts Commissioner Branch and Auditor  
216 followed up. Commissioners acknowledged that nothing in the redistricting plan that was  
217 adopted changed except needed corrections to some of the legals. An ordinance that  
218 included those corrections is still necessary.

219

### 220 **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g)**

221 Commissioner Branch moved to go into executive session at 2:00 p.m. for 15 minutes to  
222 discuss the performance of a public employee without inviting anyone else. Motion was  
223 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried. Commissioner Branch moved to amend his  
224 previous motion to include the attendance of Tanya Everett. Motion was seconded, all were  
225 in favor, motion carried.

226

### 227 **Discussion Communication Radios-Mike Worden**

228 Tony Hawley, Aaron Culp, Walt Stalder, Maurice Goodall

229

230 One of the fire district commissioners for Fire District #4 was concerned about switching the  
231 radios.

232

233 There's not compacity for what we need on VHF. The state has towers that run a digital  
234 system. The nature of their system allows them to add additional capacity to provide coverage  
235 where they work and it covers other areas but their focus is their stuff. We need to augment  
236 to their primary sites and then we'll build additional sites to build our capacity in their flavor.

237

238 Does it eliminate communication between DNR forest service ect yes, but dual band radio  
239 solutions would be needed to address that and yes, it would add more expensive radios in  
240 the fire trucks to be able to talk to the various agencies. Grant opportunities have been shared  
241 with the districts for the \$100,000 per fire district grants for radios.

242

243 Mr. Worden explained the consultants already thought about this. We purchased three bands  
244 to get close. NVHF. Pursue 60 licenses in the digital so we have 60 licenses. Commissioner  
245 Branch verified that a meeting with the fire districts is scheduled but the grant application is

246 due that day. There are 13 fire districts that Okanogan Dispatch works with and various other  
247 forms of partnerships, said Mr. Worden.

248  
249 Mr. Worden explained the education provided to the various agencies about the transition.  
250 He is interested in paying for the grant writer to help them help him. He wants to work together,  
251 but he said the more that can be achieved with a grant the further our other funds will go.

252  
253 It has taken us ten years to get this far, but we keep overcoming the obstacles.

254  
255 Commissioners discussed the building moratorium because Commissioner Hover is getting  
256 calls. How does the board see this issue going forward?

257  
258 **Review Meeting Minutes - March 14, 2022**  
259 Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes.

260  
261 The board adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

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