

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

MARCH 22, 2022

9:00 AM Commissioners' Staff Meeting
10:00 AM Update Human Resources/Risk Management-Tanya Everett
10:50 AM Continued Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Current Expense & Contingency Reserve
11:00 AM Continued Public Hearing-Cattleguard Franchise 1-22, Gamble Land & Timber OCR #1543-Public Works
11:15 AM Continued Public Hearing-Cattleguard Franchise 2-22, Cascade Holdings OCR #1545-Public Works
To Follow Update Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson
1:30 PM Public Comment Period
2:00 PM Department Head Quarterly Meeting
3:00 PM Bid Award- Legal Newspaper-Commissioners
3:30 PM Update-OBHC/Commissioners' Quarterly Meeting
4:30 PM Discussion-Public Defense Contract-Michael Haus
5:00 PM Approve Commissioner Proceedings March 14, 2022
To Follow Approve Consent Agenda

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a Public Hearing at 123^{5th} Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on March 15, 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.

Commissioner Branch was absent until 10:00 a.m. due to personal business.

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

Joe Poulin provided a list of vendors contacted for decommissioning the fuel tank at the courthouse. The responsive vendor was MTM. (attached)

Motion Authorize Vendor for Decommissioning of Courthouse Fuel Tank

Commissioner DeTro moved to authorize Joe Poulin to move forward with MTM Services in Twisp for decommissioning the Courthouse fuel tank. At a cost of \$26,359.31 including tax. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Poulin stated he reached out to an engineer to add a cooling tower into the geothermal system in the Jail. The hope is to fix the issue with flow. Solving the problem includes engineering services.

Where are we at in terms of our geothermal savings? Mr. Poulin explained each heat pump takes a certain amount of water, but there is no way to valve it down in the winter. Commissioner Hover asked Mr. Poulin to check with Engineer Josh Thomson on the details since this is a specialized project. Do we have engineers on call? Is there a list of engineers to select from?

53 A quote for a water softener and installation will be provided at a later date to install a water softener
54 in the Hancock building.

55
56 Naomie Pealsy provided that the county will receive a \$81,947 check from the Department of
57 Agriculture fairs commission in accordance with RCW 15.76.115 we call it the pari-mutual funds
58 because they are based on fair attendees and other fair activities. Fund 112 was not budgeted to
59 receive par mutual funds in 2022 so a budget supplemental is needed. Additional funds, about
60 \$46,000 will be received from Public Health for the rental.

61
62 Boots and saddle club will donate \$30,000 to the building. Move forward with purchasing race horse
63 gates. Lowest bid for the six-horse gate was from Equinox at \$76,000 including delivery cost. Costello
64 \$120,000 no delivery and True Century Gates \$84,000 no delivery.

65
66 **Motion Equinox Six Horse Starting Gate**

67 Commissioner DeTro moved to accept the fairgrounds manager recommendation to purchase the
68 six-horse starting gate from Equinox \$78,048.75 including sales tax and shipping costs. Motion was
69 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

70
71 Reject all bids for the South RV park electrical reconstruction because bids were too high.

72
73 **Motion Reject South RV park electrical reconstruction Project Bids**

74 Commissioner DeTro moved to reject all bids from South RV park electrical reconstruction

75
76 Maurice Goodall stated Fire chiefs are meeting Thursday, March 31, 2022 to discuss changes to the
77 communication systems. Commissioners would like to attend the meeting as a special meeting to be
78 held here in their chambers.

79
80 **Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)**

81 Commissioner DeTro moved to go into executive session at 9:30 a.m. for 15 minutes under RCW
82 42.30.110 (1)(i) inviting Chief Civil Deputy Esther Milner and Planning Director Pete Palmer. Motion
83 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

84
85 Executive session ended at 9:45 a.m. no decisions were made.

86
87 Planning Director said the U.S. Park Services is asking who the county assigned trails person is. Ted
88 Murray was the assigned person but he retired. No one on Planning Staff has been assigned.
89 Maintenance part should go to public works since they have the ability to and the equipment. They
90 are called to do the maintenance anyway.

91
92 The zoning code update consultant will need to be advertised. Commissioner Hover provided some
93 direction. He would like her to go out for RFQualifications.

94
95 **Motion Authorize RFQ Consulting Services Zone Code Update**

96 Commissioner DeTro moved to authorize Director Palmer to go out with Request For Qualifications
97 for consultant services for the zone code update. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
98 carried.

99
100 The Cannabis operations review is coming to end. She would like to take the next step and dive into
101 the marijuana section of code.

102

103 Travel and training budget needs were discussed It would help the department to have an additional
104 \$5,000 training budget.

105
106 Met with Lorah Super on the advisory committee situation and getting the word out in the Methow
107 with flyers and postings at the post office once the board is ready to put the ad and applications out
108 there.

109
110 **Update Human Resources/Risk Management-Tanya Everett**
111 Auditor Cari Hall stated staffing changes within her office have been requested. All details have been
112 worked out with the union. The position changes were relayed.

113
114 **Motion Resolution 37-2022 Payroll Deputy**
115 Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 37-2022 approving the Payroll Deputy changes
116 and job description. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

117
118 Commissioner Hover explained funds of the fair that were not budgeted to be received. Since the
119 board already helped with the additional fair expenses for this year they would rather leave the
120 \$81,000 as a cushion for next year.

121
122 Commissioner Hover stated he met with Auditor and Treasurer about putting the bond proceeds into
123 the Capital Improvement fund then create expense lines for each building. Need to look at how much
124 of the facility is going to be used by Juvenile functions. Having the ability to transfer money from
125 Juvenile fund 161 to capital improvement fund. A resolution will set that up. Journal entry costs will
126 be moved to the section where we track the expenditures.

127
128 Auditor Hall said the MARC fund has always been a 504 so they asked about that, State Auditor
129 recommended the fund be a special revenue fund in the 100's. We are already into 2022 she prefers
130 the transfer be done later.

131
132 Tanya Everett updated the board as the resolution appointing Albert Lin as Okanogan County
133 Prosecutor is prepared for consideration.

134
135 Tanya and Shelley will attend the Risk Pool Board of Directors meeting this week and will return
136 Monday, March 28.

137
138 **Motion Resolution 36-2022 Appointing Albert Lin**
139 Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 36-2022 appointing Albert Lin as Okanogan
140 County Prosecutor. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

141
142 An updated employment contract with Susan Baur as interim prosecutor notes she'll stay through
143 April. Looking at advertising attorney openings at Gonzaga.

144
145 **Continued Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Current Expense &**
146 **Contingency Reserve**
147 Commissioner Hover opened up the public hearing asking if the public wished to comment on the
148 proposed action. Seeing no one from the public to comment, he opened up the hearing to staff.
149 Commissioner Hover provided the staff report and explained the movement of budget and why. The
150 hearing was then opened up to the board.

151
152
153

154 **Motion Resolution 39-2022 Budget Supplemental Appropriation Current Expense Reserve**
155 Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 39-2022 a budget supplemental appropriation
156 within the current expense reserve and contingency reserve funds in the amount of \$2,276,019.
157 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

158
159 **Continued Public Hearing-Cattleguard Franchise 1-22, Gamble Land & Timber OCR #1543**
160 Commissioner Hover opened up the public hearing asking for staff report. Anna Randall provided the
161 staff report.

162
163 Commissioner Hover closed to staff and opened up to the public.

164
165 **Motion Cattleguard Franchise 1-22 Gamble Land**
166 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve cattleguard franchise No. 1-22 Gamble Land & Timber on
167 OCR #1543. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

168
169 **Continued Public Hearing-Cattleguard Franchise 2-22, Cascade Holdings OCR #1545**
170 Commissioner Hover opened up the public hearing asking for staff report. Anna Randall provided the
171 staff report.

172
173 Commissioner Hover closed to staff and opened up to the public. Public attendee, Ruth Hall, asked
174 if these were new or renewed cattleguards. These are new cattle guards. Commissioner Branch
175 confirmed with staff that these guards are replacing gates that were previously locked.

176
177 **Motion Cattleguard Franchise Cascade Holdings OCR #1545**
178 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve cattleguard franchise No. 2-22 Cascade Holdings OCR
179 #1545. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

180
181 Commissioner Hover closed the public hearing.

182
183 **Update Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson**
184 Kent Kovalenko

185
186 *Solid Waste*
187 Legislative update: Mr. Kovalenko stated 1663 pass regarding methane gas. Not sure what is entailed
188 as a result of the bill. Stay tuned as the details are worked out. 1799 passed as well regarding
189 organics. A new exemption for yard waste was read regarding populations. He explained when
190 compliance becomes an issue.

191
192 Chipping update: Twisp events are scheduled.

193
194 *Pile of Chips & Poles:* Another issue is we still have the telephone poles from the fire. Not as desirable
195 as thought. Could they be approved to be offered to people with trailers. We also have a pile of chips
196 he would like to scoop and give away. The county will need to surplus the materials as worthless then
197 it can dispose of the items in an economically way.

198
199 *Maintenance & Road Conditions:* seeing many road restrictions falling off. Gas prices and security
200 issues around the public works buildings. All public works vehicles are locked up and none parked
201 overnight.

202
203 *Gravel Crushing Contract:* The contractor brought up some issues with regards to the L&I information
204 which contained a mistake. The best way to move forward is to no sign the contract and go back out

205 to bid. The overtime code was rewritten and it moved things around and left those codes out for the
206 crushing operators on the shift differential. It can amount to a significant cost.

207
208 Working with prosecutor's office on the needed document to undo the award done last week. The
209 contractor already agreed with the situation and agreed not to sign the contract.

210
211 *FD6 Mazama Well:* Preliminary site plan review will be needed, but moving ahead to remove the
212 trees.

213
214 *Legislative Update:* \$10 million preservation of cap roads means \$120,000 per year for chip seal.

215
216 *B-4 Bridge Replacement Project:* Contractor will be back to provide a good schedule Expect girders
217 to be in place in April.

218
219 *Area 3 & 5 Shops:* Looking at design plans for septic systems. Site analysis for building should be
220 completed by mid-April. Tonasket will be a fully pressurized system.

221
222 The spending bars for each individual building will be created within the Capital Improvement fund to
223 keep track of how much is spent for each building.

224
225 *Consent Agenda Items:* Engineer Thomson provided details of the items listed on the consent
226 agenda.

227
228 Recessed until 1:30 p.m.

229
230 **Public Comment Period**

231 No public wished to provide comment.

232
233 **Motion Resolution 35-2022 Fairgrounds Office Help**

234 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve resolution 35-2022 authorizing a permanent year-round part
235 time position from temporary part time position to serve the fair office. Motion was seconded, all were
236 in favor, motion carried

237
238 **Motion Resolution 38-2022 Building Dept Permit Tech/Admin Secretary**

239 Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 38-2022 authorizing a temporary additional
240 permit tech/admin secretary within the building department. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
241 motion carried.

242
243 **Motion Resolution 40-2022 MARC Fund**

244 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve resolution 40-2022 authorizing fund #174 to be known as
245 the MARC fund and discontinuing the fund #504. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
246 carried.

247
248 **Motion LOA Okanogan County Teamsters and Public Works Mechanic II & Rates**

249 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the Letter of Agreement between Okanogan County, Public
250 Works, and Teamsters Union 760 regarding the Public Works Mechanic II position and rates. Motion
251 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

252
253 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

254 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those
255 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a list,

256 and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to approve
257 the regular vouchers in the amount of \$681,452.73 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of 963,501.40.
258 Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

259
260 **Motion Public Health Voucher**
261 Commissioner moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in the
262 amount of \$152,867.94 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$52,113.90. Warrant numbers as cited
263 on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

264
265 Commissioners discussed various topics of interest and followed up on individual meetings with the
266 public.

267
268 **Department Head Quarterly Meeting**
269 Present: Josh Thomson, Cari Hall, Leah McCormack, Larry Gilman, Kayla Wells-Yoakum, Jamie
270 Groomes, Tanya Everett, Dan Higbee, Larry Hudson, Tim Meadows, Karen Beatty, David Rodriguez

271
272 Commissioner Hover provided the commissioners office update. The bond proceeds will be received
273 this year.

274
275 Engineer Thomson updated the group. The new Public Works shop projects are planned this year.
276 Public Works is looking at installing a San Versera System to monitor the public works vehicles in the
277 public works fleet. It will help with claims reporting. There is a small cost per vehicle. The more
278 vehicles included in the proposal the less cost per vehicle if any other department wanted to be added.

279
280 Commissioner Hover said the public works building will receive upgraded windows.

281
282 Coroner Rodriguez stated his concern about the availability of pathologist services since this service
283 is no longer available with counties we previously contracted with. One future solution is the new
284 morgue proposal that Mike Worden is working on. Death rates are up. Reasons for the rise in deaths
285 was discussed. Commissioner Branch stated he brings this type of information to the Aging and Adult
286 care meetings.

287
288 Maurice Goodall provided his update. Spring run off and flooding is expected to be pretty nominal.
289 Ukraine issue and fall out questions have been received. The state says be ready with two weeks of
290 food, heat sources, power, and fuel supplies.

291
292 Tim Meadows thanked the departments for their patience as Maintenance staff has been working at
293 the Justice Building.

294
295 Larry Gilman commented on the real estate market which is booming like never before as the
296 population grows the population also matures.

297
298 Leah McCormack provided a treasurer update. Property taxes are coming in right now a bit early.
299 Working as a team to put the bond together was really helpful. She was thankful for the group effort.

300
301 Larry Hudson provided noxious weed office update. Will be seasonally staffed this year. New area
302 four board member has been lined up and will bring forward a recommendation for appointment.
303 Getting calls about toxic plants, so they decided to add a new page on the website dedicated to
304 providing that information.

305

306 Kayla Wells Yoakum was able to put 4-H coordinator and master gardeners as full time. Stated
307 January 1st and invigorated the programs. There is now a 4-H club to put Omak and Okanogan kids
308 in. A pre-Fair event is planned this year, super Saturday event in May, open to non-4-H as well as 4-
309 H. Looking to improve gardens to beautify property such as the public works garden. The pesticide
310 test is full in April, so additional dates will be provided if the need arises.

311
312 Cari Hall said she is getting requests for the 2020 audit, but it is not complete until we have our exit
313 in March for the federal portion. The accountability is likely in April. Then they will begin the 2021
314 audit just as the 2020 is wrapping up. A small election in April with about 70 ballots for a very small
315 area if you are in the Republic school district.

316
317 Dan Higbee said it is pretty much business as usual in the building department. The season has
318 already started. The numbers are a bit skewed due to the back permitting of marijuana operators
319 wanting to be compliant with county permitting.

320
321 Tony Hawley provided legislative update on bills affecting his office and employees and the public.
322 He explained the revisions and changes made to HB1719 and HB1735. Law enforcement training
323 was discussed. Recent Civil Service testing provided three offers to potential deputies. Then there is
324 the academy and training. It takes the better part of a year to get a new deputy. Two upgraded camera
325 systems are being upgraded in the jail, and in the Sheriff's office for CPS during processing. Project
326 expected to be complete this week. Access Unlimited is coming in to assess the jail systems since
327 many things have changed since their last visit.

328
329 Commissioner Hover stated the county contracted with Douglas County for housing of their inmates,
330 and with discussions about labor issues, and trying to take care of inmates of another county and
331 residents of our county, the county

332
333 Tanya Everett explained that Albert Lin is being sworn in as Prosecutor soon. Susan Baur will stay
334 with the county to help with the transition. Training techniques that created liability for the county were
335 discussed. Ms. Everett said it was addressed at the LEAH conference. Our Sheriff was key to making
336 the change and our deputies are not to participate in that training.

337
338 Karen Beatty said the computer security training has reduced the number of cyber security issues
339 coming into central services.

340
341 Commissioners thanked the group for their time.

342
343 **Bid Award- Legal Newspaper-Commissioners**
344 The Clerk of the Board provided the bid comparisons of the two bids received. (attached)
345 Commissioners reviewed the bid comparison and discussed the column widths of each newspaper.

346
347 **Motion Bid Award County Legal Newspaper 2022/2023**
348 Commissioner Branch moved to accept the low bid from the Gazette Tribune/Methow Valley News
349 as the 2022/2023 designated newspaper of record and directed that the contract be drafted for letting
350 the first Monday in April. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

351
352 Commissioners discussed moving the next two items up on the agenda.

353
354 **Approve Commissioner Proceedings March 14, 2022**
355 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve March 14, 2022 minutes. Motion was seconded all were in
356 favor, motion carried.

357
358 **Approve Consent Agenda**
359 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-3 as presented. Motion was
360 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
361 1. Contract-2022 Soil Stabilizer-GMCO Corporation-Public Works
362 2. Consultant Agreement- Update-Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP)-Shea, Carr & Jewell, Inc.
363 3. Subrecipient Agreement Amendment #1-Grant Funding- 911 System Refresh-Skamaania County Sheriff's
364

365 **Update-OBHC/Commissioners' Quarterly Meeting**
366 David McClay, Dennis Rabidou
367

368 Mr. McClay provided the OBHC quarterly update. He said OBHC crisis team is fully staffed. There
369 are currently 4- VCR's currently responding to community and a mobile crisis team was created who
370 is in the community responding but it isn't consistent yet, other agencies are aware of the team. It
371 isn't 100%. However, OBHC is down four adult therapists and down three children therapists. There
372 is a waiting list to be seen. With no available housing Mr. McClay said it is a real struggle to get people
373 here, housing is the big issue. The Governor's budget included a 7% Medicaid increase, but it won't
374 address the full shortfall. It seems like the state is taking better care of the system rather than taking
375 better care of the people, said Commissioner Branch.
376

377 Mr. McClay explained the increase for crisis services is up 30% which, with lower capacity, it pinches
378 the acuity level and creates the perfect storm. With the recent software purchase it allowed a more
379 automated function which then allowed OBHC to pay employees more. A salary survey is planned of
380 the agency.
381

382 Funding sources and ideas were discussed that could help bridge the funding gap. Commissioner
383 Branch explained our community had enough buy-in in the past to pass taxes that help support those
384 systems. He said in the next legislative session we should have a strategy when we have similar
385 things we want to see we could identify those legislators we should be working with prior to session.
386

387 Mr. McClay said in 18-months OBHC has served over 2400 unduplicated just Medicaid people. And
388 on the SUV side OBHC served over 600 unduplicated people. OBHC is doing things despite
389 everything else.
390

391 Commissioner Hover asked Tanya Everett to provide a preliminary update of the Public Defenders
392 office. Ms. Everett stated Melissa McDougall wrote a letter stating she was with withdrawing from the
393 contract. A draft agreement has been prepared for Michael Haus and Ana Burika to take on the
394 contract responsibilities. The county may go out to bid for such service but it doesn't have to. If the
395 board wishes to keep the status quo, then Michael Haus and Ana Burika is willing to take over the
396 contract.
397

398 A copy of the draft was provided to the board. Ms. Everett and the commissioners reviewed the draft
399 contract proposed changes. Commissioners relayed the additional changes they would like to see.
400

401 **Discussion-Public Defense Contract-Michael Haus, Ana Burika**

402 Introductions were made and some back-ground information given of the two attorneys.
403

404 Mr. Haus has been practicing law for about 34 years and has complex criminal and complex civil back
405 ground. Commissioner Hover asked if they take over the contract would the same number of
406 attorneys stay. There would be ten attorneys once Jason Worgun is hired part time. Mr. Haus
407 explained case load minimum maximums and the types of cases involved. Commissioner Hover

408 asked whether District Court and Superior Court functions can be covered well. Is there any way to
409 mitigate that? Mr. Haus replied how conflict situations occur and how to avoid those. Some details of
410 being in two places at once have not been worked out, said Ms. Burika. There is also the Class A
411 qualified attorneys and that appears to be well covered by the group. They already know Okanogan
412 County demographic.

413
414 Haus, McDougall and Prince was formed in 2009 and were from Grant County. Mr. Haus did leave
415 after two years in because his family needed to be in the Seattle area. He is back now and looking to
416 purchase a home.

417
418 Conflict council was discussed. Mr. Haus said he would have no problem assisting the county in
419 finding a qualified conflict council. Also, an RFQ could be drafted to identify qualified conflict attorneys.

420
421 Termination language was reviewed and discussed it includes 180 days, but what happens when a
422 case comes in at 140 days? Commissioner Hover replied that an additional clause could provide for
423 adequate coverage before expiration. Commissioner Branch asked if the prosecutor's office would
424 review the contract? In having the prosecutor review the contract it must be as to form for the
425 legalities, but that would be it, said Ms. Everett.

426
427 Cost of Living increase changes were discussed.

428
429
430 The board adjourned at

431
432