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**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**OKANOGAN COUNTY  
MARCH 4, 2024**

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7     **9:00 AM**     **Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda**  
8     **9:15 AM**     **Public Comment Period**  
9     **9:30 AM**     **Commissioners Staff Meeting**  
10    **10:30 AM**    **Update-Superior Court Clerk-Susan Speiker**  
11    **11:00 AM**    **Discussion-TV District #1 Appointment-Patrick Barker Letter of Interest**  
12    **11:30 AM**    **Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings and Schedule**  
13    **1:30 PM**     **CANCELLED Discussion-Planning Commissioner Recommendation Zone Code-**  
14    **Planning Director Pete Palmer**

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16    The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
17    North, Okanogan, Washington on February, 2024 with Chairman, Commissioner Jon Neal; Vice-  
18    Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Chris Branch; and the Deputy  
19    Clerk of the Board, Cameron Burnette, present.

20  
21    AV Capture and Zoom provided audio and video accessibility for public interaction.

22  
23    **Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda**

24    Commissioner Hover noted to the Board that today's 1:30 agenda item today with Planning Direct  
25    Pete Palmer regarding the Planning Commission Recommendation was cancelled as it scheduled  
26    before the Zone Code Hearing on February 20<sup>th</sup>, which has now been continued to March 25 and there  
27    is no recommendation.

28  
29    **Motion-Closed Session Union Negotiation Discussions under RCW 42.30.140(4)b)**

30    Commissioner Hover moved to into closed session under RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) for Union Negotiation  
31    Discussions from 9:10 am to 9:15 am. Motion seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

32  
33    **Public Comment Period**

34    "Alex" (Omak Republic), "Findtheright Passion" Ms. Jackson, both VIA Zoom

35  
36    "Alex" from "omakrepublic" left when public comment started.

37  
38    Commissioner Neal opened up public comment, asking "Findtheright Passion" Ms. Jackson. She  
39    stated she does not have comment she is just waiting for a response still, it was directed towards  
40    Commissioner Branch about contacting the State Health Department about the water issues at the  
41    Fairgrounds. Commissioner Branch stated he is still working on that. Ms. Jackson also asked via Zoom  
42    chat, if there are codes for the Public health and where can she find them. Commissioners mentioned  
43    they have also had the issue to find the codes for Public Health. They will follow up with Okanogan  
44    County Public Health at their meeting with them next Tuesday.

45  
46    **Commissioners Staff Meeting**

47    Dennis Rabidou Juvenile Admin, Emergency Manger Maurice Goodall, Planning Director Pete Palmer,  
48    Maintenance Supervisor Tim Meadows, Clerk of the Board Lalena Johns, Deputy Clerk of the Board  
49    Cameron Burnette

50  
51    Mr. Rabidou discussed titling vehicles for the Courts. Commissioners asked for an example of another  
52    County where they are titling vehicles under the Courts and not the County. AOC for the supreme  
53    courts titles their vehicles so that was the example. Commissioner Hover read from a title that is titled

54 to Okanogan County Juvenile. Mr. Rabidou wants the future titles to be titled to Okanogan County  
55 Juvenile, and he has an issue with the titles being stored in the Commissioner Office and feels they  
56 should be in the control of the Juvenile Departments. That would require a change to the asset policy.  
57 The courts would be the legal owner of the vehicle then, not the county. Commissioner Neal had  
58 concerns, because the County is the owner so the County should have possession of the title. Mr.  
59 Rabidou wants the acknowledgement that the Courts are their own local branch. Commissioner  
60 Branch stated he doesn't see a difference in it, it's not a big deal for him. What would be the motivation  
61 for the County Commissioners to take away a vehicle, it's a control thing that he would not like to get  
62 into. Under 36.32.120 it states that "The Commissioners have the care of the County equipment". The  
63 courts are a separate branch of the government, he wants to distinguish the fact that when they  
64 establish a budget for the Juvenile Department, at what point could the Commissioners take that back?  
65 He doesn't think they could. Unless Mr. Rabidou can show the Board that there is a statute or  
66 something that could work around this, then they would like to see it. They want to have a discussion  
67 with the Auditor to clarify this issue.  
68

69 Mr. Goodall handed the dates out for public meetings for the Okanogan County Wildfire Protection  
70 Plan updates with the Conservation district, they are holding meetings every week. The intent is who's  
71 going to be at what, they need representation, he thinks it would be best that each district that the  
72 meeting is held in, the corresponding Commissioner should attend. Commissioner Neal would attend  
73 the March 12 meeting. Everbridge, which was purchased under the Emergency Management fund, he  
74 would like to use it as a notification system for the County and the Cities. Commissioner Hover asked  
75 for Mr. Goodall to look into the Snowtel information for snow pack up north and give an update on that  
76 next week.  
77

78 Mr. Meadows stated the walk-in cooler in the jail as been installed and running, double ovens and top  
79 range just got changed out, the sink and the lights still need to be done. He asked what the Board  
80 what they wanted to do with the old range and grill, they are both very old and are a 480 volts 3-phase.  
81 They also weigh over 1,500 pounds together so moving them is difficult. He will look for the serial  
82 numbers and everything to see about sending them to surplus.  
83

84 Ms. Palmer stated tonight they have the Planning Commission meeting, it will be a debriefing from the  
85 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. She wanted to make sure that at least one of the Commissioners could attend to talk  
86 with the Board. They have two expired terms on the Commission. She is hoping the Mazama subunit  
87 a will be able to provide housing. WSU has a grant that will pay for the internship. Preparing for the  
88 hearing on the 25<sup>th</sup> is the continued hearing for the Zone code and will be held at the Agri-Plex. She  
89 feels they need to have security at the next meeting, and they are expecting the crowd to at least  
90 double. She's wondering how to request maintenance staff to set up chairs and prepare the facility.  
91 Also, if the Sheriff's Office could provide security or if we have a contract with someone else that could  
92 provide the security. Commissioners hope that a Sheriff's Deputy could attend. Commissioner Branch  
93 would like to see the meeting rules put up at that meeting, and it should be the first thing that is  
94 discussed at the beginning. Commissioner Branch stated that he does not want Planning Commission  
95 members that have friends in the crowd and catering to them. Public comment is not on the agenda  
96 for the meeting tonight, it is a special meeting only to address what is on the agenda. The blue line  
97 document comes from the group that came in about the gravel pits and the SEPA section in reference  
98 to the PUD, and WDFW on the same topic. The BOCC would like to set up a future Executive Session  
99 regarding this. Commissioner Branch read from a memo he has written that he would like to send to  
100 the Planning Commission. Commissioners would like the proposed Zone Code changes sent to the  
101 Planning Commission, that has recommendations from the Staff, then they can decide and add to  
102 those recommendations. The BOCC needs a clear message from them about these changes.  
103 Commissioner Branch noted that when the Planning Commission makes their recommendations and  
104 comments about the changes, those needs to be addressed by the Planning Department if they don't  
105 work and why. They have a Hearings Examiner scheduled March 28<sup>th</sup>, and the document will have to  
106 be sent out by the 8<sup>th</sup>. If that is not possible she will need to know so they can reschedule it.

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**Update-Superior Court Clerk-Susan Speiker**

Ms. Speiker stated they had Oroville Highschool in December, they hit a lot of hot topics for youth with the Judges involved. Okanogan Highschool is coming in three parts. All the Seniors will attend by May. They had a CJS gathering, it used to be done every year but it went away during COVID so it is ramping back up. It's to help build good working relationships within the CJS. They also sent off a lot of documents to be digitized. They are doing passport photos now and it is working well, they modeled after Stevens County. They have a QR code up in front of the office, it is valuable for drug court participants and directs them to the payment portal to make their payments online. 307 cases were sent to collections. She was able with Ms. Keitzman's help to find a mental health first aid for her staff, to help with the mental health struggles that can happen within the Clerks office. Half will go in April the other half will go in May. They have also posted "rules for filing" at the front window to help people understand how to legally file documents for their court cases. On their webpage they have also gave information on adoptions and the legal process, and all the adoption agencies contact information.

**Discussion Staff Items LTAC - DMO**

Deputy Clerk of the Board, Cameron Burnette requested clarification on Lodging Tax Funding agreements between Okanogan County and Okanogan Tourism Council for 2024 funding. One agreement was for Visitor Center Kiosks and the other was for Destination Marketing Organization. Neither have been signed. Before signing staff needs clarification on the scopes of work.

The scope of work for the kiosks states the county will purchase the iPad and build the kiosks, however the budget includes the purchase costs. Staff needed clarification about who was purchasing the iPad and who was going provide set up of the software and who was to maintain them afterward.

Commissioner Hover asked where they are at in the project timeline and whether or not they purchased the kiosks. Ownership of the software and responsibility for updating it needs to be clarified. The ongoing software costs can be something the VIC's put into their LTAC application operations budget. The VIC's may not know they can apply for these types of funds. Commissioner Branch thought the best use in marketing strategies to coordinate those strategies with VIC's should come from the DMO. The LTAC provided \$87,000 to the kiosk project. Commissioner Hover discussed the DMO contract. Commissioners would like to meet with OCTC to clarify both contract scopes of work. Commissioners discussed the encouragement of development of North County recreation. The DMO would market those events. Commissioner Hover thinks the DMO should be looking for ways to market the North end and put it out there to those who can apply. Good communication with other marketing organizations in the county chambers of commerce and visitor information centers.

The commissioners would like to meet with the DMO and go over the following questions. What do you see your role as with regards to the DMO with the VIC's? This will help make it clear in terms of what interaction is expected between DMO and the VICs is.

What capital expenditure projects does the board want apply to LTAC for? Commissioner Hover suggested a new vaulted toilet at Whistler Canyon trail head and would like to get quotes. Commissioner Branch said funds to development of the trails would be good. Commissioner Branch discussed match money for RCO grants for any trail development.

Commissioner Hover said he would like Public Works Amy Staggs to look through our data base and find county ownership of trail bridges.

Deputy Clerk of the Board will be attending the OCTC monthly meetings to build the relationship between the county and LTAC. Commissioner Hover asked if the BOCC wanted to authorize him to do that and authorize travel costs.

160 **Motion**  
161 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the Deputy Clerk of the Board to attend the OCTC meetings  
162 on a regular basis. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.  
163  
164 **Discussion-TV District #1 Appointment-Patrick Barker Letter of Interest**  
165 Commissioners reviewed the resignation letter and the letter of interest for TV District #1 appointment.  
166  
167 **Motion-Direct the Clerk of the Board to Draft an Appointment Letter for Patrick Barker TV**  
168 **District #1**  
169 Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Clerk of the Board to draft an appointment letter for Patrick  
170 Barker to fill the vacant position for TV District #1. Motion seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.  
171  
172 **Motion-Approve Reappointment Phil Dart Planning Commission Representing District #3**  
173 Commissioner Neal moved to approve reappointment Phil Dart into the District #3 Position on the  
174 Planning Commission. Commissioner Branch wanted to make the point that Commissioner Neal move  
175 to appoint him because the position is within his district. Motion seconded, all in favor, motion carried.  
176  
177 **Motion-Reappoint Salley Bull for the Planning Commission Position Representing District #3**  
178 Commissioner Neal moved to approve the reappointment of Salley Bull for the position on the Planning  
179 Commission representing District #3. Motion seconded, all in favor, motion carried.  
180  
181 **Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings and Schedule**  
182 Commissioners discussed an email that was sent to the Board, that had accusations about  
183 Commissioner Hover and “coercing” the Planning Commission, he wanted to clear up for the record  
184 that he has not talked to any of the Planning Commissioners and has been a strong proponent of  
185 receiving public comments, addressing them, and Planning Commission doing the same thing. He does  
186 not want that to be misconstrued at all, he wants the Planning Commission to make recommendations.  
187 He has also never dismissed people’s public comments as “mob mentality”. Commissioners noted that  
188 the OmakRepublic website, is a publication that writes satirical articles and it is confusing people who  
189 do not know that.  
190  
191 Commissioner Branch mentioned they did vote at the Legislative Steering Committee meeting on  
192 weighted voting for Urban Counties. Those are not board decisions and it is only for Urban  
193 Development. He voted in favor of that.  
194  
195 The board adjourned at 11:55 a.m.