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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

MARCH 8, 2022

9:00 AM Commissioners' Staff Meeting
10:00 AM Update-Human Resources/Risk Management-Tanya Everett
10:30 AM Update-County Auditor-Cari Hall
11:00 AM Public Hearing-Utility Franchise City of Brewster 01-022-Josh Thomson & Ms. Stansbury
To Follow Update-Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson
1:30 PM Board of Health-1234 S. 2nd Ave, Okanogan
3:30 PM Update-Forest Service-Tonasket Ranger Kathleen Johnson
To Follow Approve Commissioner Proceedings & Consent Agenda

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on March 8, 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 recorded audio and video of the meeting held today, while ZOOM provided best audio accessibility and public interaction.

Members of the public: Findtherightpassion, Isabelle Spohn, and Ruth Hall attended this morning's session.

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

Naomie Peasley, Pete Palmer

Ms. Peasley explained another break-in happened at the fairground's office. The office door and a window were broken. She said security cameras will be installed at the office. The cash in the petty cash drawer was stolen, everything in the office was rummaged through but the computers were still in place. The Sheriff was notified. There is a safe in the office, but the cash box was not secured there. This is the second time in a week that this has happened.

Ms. Peasley said there is a FAC meeting next Monday and the FAC will go through the Open Public Meetings training, she will not be attending the meeting. Ms. Peasley said the FAC secretary will be expected to run the meetings from now on. Commissioner Hover said he would like to discuss further on Wednesday.

Ms. Peasley updated the board on the installation of the outer race track rail and the idea of mixing topsoil with sand to prevent soil blow away, but commissioners were concerned about track compaction if too much soil is used.

Ms. Peasley said she is overwhelmed at the fair office so she would like some permanent part time help due to the added paperwork and other added work. The temp employee budget line is funded June through October, but she would like a permanent part-time employee. Commissioners were alright with that.

51 Commissioner Hover explained Ms. Peasley requested to discuss the complaint against her in an
52 open public meeting instead of in executive session. He said the board can first discuss the
53 complaint in executive session then conduct an open meeting upon such complaint. Ms. Peasley
54 prefers the public be able to hear her responses.

55
56 **Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(f)**

57 Commissioner Branch moved to go into executive session at 9:02 a.m. for 10 minutes inviting
58 Tanya Everett to discuss a complaint against a public employee. Motion was seconded all were
59 in favor, motion carried.

60
61 Executive session was extended at 9:12 a.m. for another five minutes.

62
63 Executive session ended at 9:15 a.m., the board sat for the final two minutes.

64
65 Commissioner Hover said the board will discuss the complaint with Ms. Peasley at a later date.
66 Commissioner Branch suggested she bring her job description. Ms. Peasley said she will see if
67 she has some time to come back on Wednesday March 9 at 11:00 a.m.

68
69 **Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)**

70 Commissioner Branch moved to go into executive session at 9:30 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. inviting
71 Pete Palmer, David Gecas, and Rocky Robbins to discuss legal matters to which the county may
72 be a party or may become a party when discussion could result in an adverse financial or legal
73 consequence to the county. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

74
75 Executive session ended at 9:45 a.m. no decisions were made.

76
77 Pete Palmer said letters to the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board were prepared
78 regarding two marijuana operations.

79
80 Ms. Palmer stated a land owner is refusing to pay their Lake Management District assessment
81 for 2021 and 2022. Through a civil action, a lien can be placed on the landowner's property. Ms.
82 Palmer doesn't feel it is the Planning Departments responsibility to collect taxes.

83
84 Ms. Palmer provided the requested information regarding the Community Advisory Committees.
85 (attached)

86
87 Following the code and RCW regarding the commissioners setting the boundaries covered by the
88 committee the committee doesn't set the boundaries.

89
90 Did the tally for zoning priorities get completed and reviewed?

91
92 Ms. Palmer stated in her research there are many more nightly rentals in Okanogan County than
93 what is permitted. Out of the 1200 or so only about 200 are permitted.

94
95 Staffing update included a resignation of the senior staff planner. Were able to move people
96 around in the department and offered the position to an applicant experienced in the planning
97 issues Okanogan County is working on. Commissioners do not want the agenda of the prior
98 agency to be her priority, Okanogan County has its own views that will need to be accepted and
99 everyone is on the same page.

100

101 Ms. Palmer provided that planning staff is attending free training whenever it is available.
102 Commissioners replied that if staff needed more extensive training that they should be trained
103 even if it costs money, just request additional training funds.

104

105 **Update-Human Resources/Risk Management-Tanya Everett**

106 Ms. Everett explained she had some items for commissioners' consideration.

107

108 Ms. Everett handed over an agreement that would provide medical coverage for when the jail
109 medical officer needs to be absent.

110

111 Ms. Everett provided a timeline for when Mr. Albert Lin could start as Okanogan County
112 Prosecutor. She said Mr. Lin's third strike trial begins tomorrow which he will see through for his
113 current employer. Depending on the trial he could start as late as March 31 or sooner.

114

115 Ms. Everett stated Davide Gecas submitted his resignation letter effective tomorrow. She said
116 Ester Milner has stepped up and is helping with the civil issues along with David Gecas. Mr. Gecas
117 submitted his resignation effective tomorrow, so with Ms. Milner's back ground she will be
118 handling the civil issues. Hiring in the Prosecutor's office is on hold until Mr. Lin is in office.

119

120 Commissioner Hover asked Ms. Everett to work with Sue or Albert to do a budget amendment
121 from the salary lines to the outside council expenditure lines. Take all the budget from the first
122 two months of the year and move it to that line. Ms. Everett requested we wait to do that and see.

123

124 The Clerk of the Board presented several items to the board and asked for clarification on several
125 invoices to be processed for feasibility study, 20-year Master Plan, and Central Services HVAC
126 unit.

127

128 A letter of support for an EPA Air Quality grant was discussed by the commissioners.

129

130 **CANCELLED Update-County Auditor-Cari Hall**

131

132 **Public Hearing-Utility Franchise City of Brewster 01-022-Josh Thomson & Ms. Stansbury**

133 Commissioner Hover opened up the hearing. Ms. Stansbury said the franchise would allow the
134 city of Brewster to run domestic water and sewer line utilities under the county road. The City of
135 Brewster has not yet signed the agreement as they disagree with section 6 of the agreement
136 regarding insurance the county requires. Their council meeting is the first Monday each month at
137 which time the city council will discuss. The Utility Franchise will need to be continued to give the
138 city time to discuss requirements.

139

140 **Motion Continued Public Hearing Utility Franchise City of Brewster**

141 Commissioner DeTro moved to continue the City of Brewster Utility Franchise public hearing to
142 Tuesday, April 12 at 11:00 a.m. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

143 Commissioner Hover left the hearing open to comment and testimony.

144

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

146 Engineer Thomson provide his agenda and discussed the items listed there.

147

148 *Maintenance & Road Conditions*

149 Public Works started lifting road restrictions in the lower elevations. Crews are sweeping winter
150 sands and getting ready for spring runoff. The road crew just moved into their four-tens schedule.

151

152 Engineer Thomson explained the transportation package moving forward in the legislature. He
153 said WSAC is opposing the transportation package. The legislators did add some additional
154 funding to the preservation projects, but with little money coming to local agencies.

155
156 Engineer Thomson said one WSAC staff talked about years like this when there is plenty of money
157 to allocate but no one can agree about where to put it. Decisions don't take this long when there
158 is little money to allocate. All increases seem to go to state agencies and not to local governments,
159 so this package allows funds to local government but no one seems to agree on precisely where
160 to put the money.

161
162 B-4 bridge replacement project update was provided.

163
164 *Johnson Creek Culvert @ Green Acres Road-Trout Unlimited Project*
165 This project is moving forward. This will be scheduled as late as possible.

166
167 *Area 3&5 Shops*-There are many unanswered questions on state and federal funding. OSB prices
168 are up again. Commissioner Hover prefers steel be used for the buildings. The Capital
169 Improvement budget was discussed and explained by Commissioner Hover. Engineer Thomson
170 said he and Auditor Hall created a specific bar in Capital Improvement fund to separate budget
171 for the new shop expenditures.

172
173 *Public Works Window Replacements*-Put together a specs package and calling vendors on small
174 works roster. Looking at around \$40,000 to replace them all.

175
176 *Salmon Creek Road Box Culvert* replacement due to road flooding issues. Looking at additional
177 budget will be needed and CRAB has not wanted to provide an increase, but will bring that back
178 up again with them. Right now, we are close but still short around \$50,000 -\$70,000.

179
180 *Consent Agenda* items were discussed. Projected increases in materials was around 15% over
181 last years costs but it is actually even higher at around 37%.

182
183 Commissioner Hover will inquire of the Treasurer & Auditor about the \$249,000 transfer.

184
185 Engineer Thomson asked if the shop at the New Justice Center could be used to park public
186 works vehicles inside to protect them against vandals.

187
188 Commissioner Hover discussed the board's need to approve that allows some staff to take their
189 county owned vehicle home in order to protect the vehicles from vandals and also save space in
190 the shop. Commissioners discussed the thefts and vandalizing happening at the fairgrounds too.

191
192 Commissioner DeTro received requests to make Rodeo Trail Road an all-season road that can
193 handle heavy industrial uses. Also, at one end the railroad spur into the old mill is a hazard.
194 Commissioner Branch thought consultation with the city about their future water and sewer plans
195 along Rodeo Trail road would be good.

196
197 Commissioner Branch asked if the Oroville project was satisfactory. Engineer Thomson explained
198 it is a little better, but not much, he explained why.

199
200 Funding to install guard rail at the Aeneas Valley lake was approved. Commissioner Hover asked
201 that the resident (Rosa) be notified.

202

203 Commissioner Branch stated he may be late arriving to the Public Health Meeting due to attending
204 a Forest Health Collaborative that is addressing the McCoy's project.

205

206 **Board of Health-1234 S. 2nd Ave, Okanogan**

207 The Board of Health was cancelled due to internet issues.

208

209 Commissioner DeTro joined the afternoon session via zoom.

210

211 **Discussion EPA Air Quality Grant Support Letter**

212 Commissioner Branch invited Ms. Elizabeth Walker to discuss a letter of support she requested
213 for an EPA grant application. The overarching goal is for the cleaner Methow Project, raise
214 awareness of air quality in the community, chipping drives and such as alternatives to burning,
215 and health reasons due to smoke. Imperative that we get air purifiers and strategies to protect
216 people when the air is really bad, also additional data about the air quality should be more
217 available that characterizes the level of smoke. It is just as important to discuss when the air is
218 really clear and clean. The grant would allow more sensors to monitor the air. Purple Air sensors
219 and the program would really focus on the Methow area residents. Air Quality specialist that is
220 responsible for air quality in our area.

221

222 Helping with wood stove change outs to certified models and they help with that.

223 Make people more aware of prescribed burns.

224

225 Commissioner Branch asked if the work sensor connected to the smoke tool. Ms. Walker said
226 maybe. EPA monitors are used on the AirNow website. Reality is there has been enough
227 calibration of the devices that the data can be placed on the ap now.

228

229 Commissioner Hover feels comfortable to sign the letter.

230

231 **Motion Letter of Support for EPA Grant Application Air Quality Support MVCC Project**

232 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the letter of support for EPA Grant Application Air
233 Quality Support MVCC Project. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

234

235 **Motion Commissioners Proceedings**

236 Commissioner Branch moved to approve February 22, 23, 28 and March 1, 2022 commissioner
237 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

238

239 **Motion Letter to WSLCB Regarding Marijuana Operations**

240 Commissioner Branch moved to approve a letter to WSLCB regarding marijuana operators
241 licenses of

242

243 **Motion Letter to WSLCB Regarding Marijuana Operations**

244 Commissioner Branch moved to approve a letter to WSLCB regarding marijuana operators
245 licenses of

246

247 Commissioner Branch said the county has not paid this much attention to its Cannabis licenses
248 so this shows the level of attention the county will continue to pay towards marijuana operations.

249

250 **Approve Commissioner Proceedings & Consent Agenda**

251 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-11

252 1. Interlocal Joint Purchasing Agreement-Specialty Vehicles-TriVan Truck Body-City of Tacoma

253 2. Contract-Radio Network Consultant Services-ADCOMM Engineering

- 254 3. Amendment #1- Homeless Housing Professional Services Agreement-Oroville Housing Authority
255 4. Bid Award-Liquid Asphalt 2022- Idaho Asphalt Supply Inc
256 5. Bid Award-Soil Stabilizer 2022-GMCO Cop
257 6. Agreement Federal Hiways STP Program Match-Cameron Lake Road
258 7. Agreement Federal Hiways STP Program- Guardrail Safety Project
259 8. Agreement Professional Services County Curvilinear Project-Beaman Architecture
260 9. Acknowledge Fairgrounds Rental Agreements: Sunrise RV Show 2/25-28; Birthday Party 2/12; WVC
261 Student Gov't 2/19; and Trade Show 2/8
262 10. NCW Libraries District Appointment-Nancy Churchill Ferry Co. Resolution 2022-05
263 11. Memorandum of Agreement -Collective Bargaining Agreement Correction- OCSEA
264

265 **Motion Resolution 34.2022 Juneteeth Holiday**

266 Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 34-2022 adopting Juneteeth as a county
267 holiday. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
268

269 **Motion General Services Agreement PA-C Medical Officer Robert Johansen**

270 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the General Services agreement between Okanogan
271 County and Robert Johansen PA-C as medical officer back up services for the jail. Motion was
272 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
273

274 **Motion Amendment Law Enforcement Agreement for Overtime funds- Forest Service**

275 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the amendment to the grant agreement of the Forest
276 Service which allows additional funds for overtime in the amount of \$10,000. Motion was
277 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
278

279 **Motion Methow Valley EMS District**

280 Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Methow Valley EMS
281 District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.
282

283 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Methow Valley
284 EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$60,815.16. Motion was seconded, all were in
285 favor, motion carried.
286

287 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS District and Reconvene as the
288 Tonasket EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.
289

290 **Motion Tonasket EMS District**

291 Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Tonasket EMS
292 District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.
293

294 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Tonasket
295 EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$16,200 to Life Line for July Services. Motion
296 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
297

298 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Tonasket EMS District and Reconvene as the
299 Oroville Rural EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.
300

301 **Motion Oroville Rural EMS District**

302 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Oroville Rural
303 EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$9,680. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
304 motion carried.
305

306 Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the Oroville Rural EMS District and Reconvene as the
307 BOCC. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

308

309 **Update-Forest Service-Tonasket Ranger Kathleen Johnson**

310 Ms. Johnson provided her Tonasket Ranger District update. Two salvage sales happened of the
311 burn area.

312

313 Has the county participated in the Tri-County/Quad County meetings? The next meeting is on
314 March 18 and will be hosted by Stevens County. Commissioners plan to attend.

315

316 Tonasket Forest Plan still falls under the Okanogan/Wenatchee with conversion to Colville Forest
317 in 2025. The group discussed the transition timeline.

318

319 The group discussed the shared zones and shared staff there.

320

321 The next area is going to be the Buckhorn NEPA area for timber sales. With the Walker Fire the
322 Bonaparte area burnt. They decided to divide the area in half with the north part being absorbed
323 by the Buckhorn project. Getting some of the trees anticipated to be dead from that fire in the next
324 five years and that project will take an additional year to accomplish.

325

326 Ms. Johnson figured the number of grazing acres affected by the fires was around 4-5 pastures
327 closed to grazing and several others were reduced either by area or numbers. A new thing was
328 started (Beher) and expanded to include range structures, water development, range fencing
329 etc....Some areas had to be overlooked as the funds were not sufficient to cover all the losses.
330 Cottonwood trees burned the worst in the Conconully area fire.

331

332 Ms. Johnson explained she is retiring at the end of May. Commissioners expressed their
333 enjoyment working with her. Overall Tonasket is a good district and has many good people. The
334 outreach is happening now for the position. It will close in April. Commissioner DeTro
335 complimented her on how well she fit into the situation and he hopes someone like that is chosen
336 with the same values she has. Commissioner Hover said if Rodney needs help choosing
337 someone, he is welcome to discuss with the commissioners.

338

339 The board adjourned at 4:10 p.m. until 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 9.

340