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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

MAY 7, 2024

9:00 AM Review Meeting Minutes- April 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 30th 2024
9:15 AM Public Comment Period
9:30 AM Go Over CGI Scripts-Commissioners
10:00 AM Approve Commissioners Proceedings- April 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 30th, 2024
10:30 AM Update-County Homeless Crisis Follow-up-OCCAC Rena Shawver
11:00 AM Update-Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson
11:55 AM Commissioners to set Wednesday’s Agenda if Necessary
1:30 PM Discussion-Property Demolition Recommendation-Rail Road Ave-Mike Worden
2:00 PM Discussion-Broad Band Action Team Update-Roni Holder Diefenbach
2:30 PM Approve Consent Agenda

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on May 7, 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.

Motion – Special Voucher Approval - Commissioners

Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$104,205.53. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners

Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$421,021.40 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$1,357,548.52. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

Public Comment Period

Member of the public, Ruth Hall, via zoom, thanked the commissioners and staff for their work.

Review Meeting Minutes- April 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 30th 2024

Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes.

Commissioner Neal discussed charging the fair queen \$75 for the fairgrounds annex for her fund raiser. He discussed the fund raiser would help fund her expenses and her fairgrounds goat barn project expense.

51 Commissioner Hover met with Judge Grim and Karen Beatty to find out what works best for their video
52 and conferencing technology. He would like to meet with all four judges, the Clerk and the public
53 defense contractor to go over their needs and ideas to learn how the technology needs to work.

54
55 Commissioner Neal discussed whether or not the Feds could take back any of the LATCF funds that
56 have not been obligated. Commissioner Hover stated LATCF funds are tied to Secure Rural Schools
57 and he would fight that tooth and nail if the Feds tried to take back the funds. Commissioner Branch
58 thought the funds were pretty secure with only a few things it cannot be spent on like lobbying.

59
60 Commissioners thanked the Clerk of the Board for completing the recent ARPA report on the Treasury
61 Site. The site was not saving the report data Commissioner Branch was entering into his wireless
62 laptop.

63
64 Commissioner Hover discussed the county funding the Methow Watershed Council secretary. He
65 talked about the relevance of the work the council does and how it relates to the implementation of the
66 water plan for WRIA 48. There should be relevance to that work and legal aspects that were not part
67 of the plan. Commissioner Branch discussed Chelan County and their grant projects for wood
68 products.

69
70 **Go Over CGI Scripts-Commissioners**

71 Commissioners looked over the scripts and said they looked good.

72
73 **Update-County Homeless Crisis Follow-up-OCCAC Executive Director Rena Shawver**

74 Ms. Shawver updated the board on the Housing Coalition and work on the housing situation and
75 Community Action agency that supports the most vulnerable population.

76
77 West East was hired to create our 5-year Homeless Housing Plan. The will meet with the Housing
78 Coalition on May 13 from 10-3. They will be asked to talk about expectations and strategies, what is
79 working and what is not, the county landscape on current working housing and what we want it to look
80 like in years to come. The rest of the week they are working with municipal planning departments.
81 Each received a letter of introduction and will be meeting with them on the purposes of the CLHP
82 grant. After they meet with the housing coalition on Monday, then they will meet with the planners.
83 Eventually, the whole Housing Coalition wants to meet with the BOCC once dates are selected.

84
85 Commissioner Branch stated the BOCC will meet with the Okanogan County Planning Commission
86 on Monday, May 13.

87
88 Updated the BOCC on new documentation needed for compliance guidelines for the plans. They are
89 now due at the end of December 2025. West East was prepared to complete the plan by December
90 31, 2024 as our contract term was agreed. Commerce sent a draft of the state's plan to agencies for
91 comment.

92
93 The Commerce Consolidated Homeless Grant will be passed through the county to OCCAC as the
94 state requires the grant agreement to be with the county this time around instead of the county opting
95 out and OCCAC contracting directly with Commerce for the grant.

96
97 Ms. Shawver explained staffing for disability work that will provide a great service in our community
98 for people with disabilities.

99
100 Ms. Shawver explained shelter services which provided vouchers for hotel rooms, because we have
101 no other options for emergency shelter housing. Reported on food pantry highlights and amounts of
102 food delivered and other services OCCAC provides. She does not believe the same food shortages
103 will happen this year that happened previously.

104 Request for proposals were sent to agencies for the OCCAC roof project with responses due at the
105 end of the month.

106
107 Ms. Shawver discussed the community agency building proposal and the work involved with finding
108 new partners and looking at new ways the building can help sustain its purpose and missions in
109 providing a path to stability. Education, jobs, childcare etc.... She named who might occupy the
110 building such as Child Development, Support Center etc..... There is a new president of the
111 Wenatchee Valley College Omak Campus who may also be interested in space.

112
113 Congressional Directed spending is not available this year. Other funding sources could be a market
114 tax credit building communities fund or CDBG Block grant with a capital spending campaign.
115 Commissioner Hover stated the county might add the project to its capital improvement plan.

116
117 The OCCAC board of directors added a new housing development element to the OCCAC strategic
118 plan. There is a plan in place to provide 72 units of subsidized housing to the county stock. This
119 element is just getting underway. An update on the progress will be provided at a later date.

120
121 Copies of the information will be sent for the record and county capital improvement plan.

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

123
124 Engineer Thomson

125
126 Engineer Thomson gave his Road and Maintenance update. Everything pretty normal. Snow packs
127 are not a concern.

128 *New Shops*

129 The snow breaks were discussed with the vendor and it will be a follow up item.

130
131
132 Heaters were discussed but language in the contract is pretty vague. A discussion with the contractor
133 is needed to address the oil pump system which is actually very complicated and spec'd to pump
134 diesel and not waste oil. We need it to pump waste oil. They are working with the supplier to switch
135 the pumps.

136 *WSDOT Coordination Meeting-Tomorrow*

137
138 Engineer Thomson discussed funding changes that reduces funding for projects. Funds normally
139 collected from fuel tax could be used for roads. There is the potential for road use tax and but the state
140 is reluctant to protect the funds for only road improvements. The state wants to be able to use for light
141 rail and other things. Road usage charge will be expensive to collect and very cumbersome.

142
143 Are the Bridges for 153 on a list? Those are on a wish list, said Engineer Thomson.

144
145 Commissioners recessed until 1:30 p.m.

146 **Commissioners to set Wednesday's Agenda if Necessary**

147 **Discussion-Property Demolition Recommendation-Rail Road Ave-Mike Worden**

148
149 Chief Communications Deputy Mike Worden, MJ Neal Luis Rodriguez via Zoom

150
151
152 Chief Communications Deputy Mike Worden discussed the bids received last week for the 269 Rail
153 Road property demolition project for the Sheriff's Equipment and Coroner Storage building. A
154 recommendation for bid award was discussed.

155

156 One bid was significantly low, in the process to determine the reason it was found the bidder failed to
157 bid on the tank disposal costs and therefore they withdrew their bid.

158
159 The Groat Brothers bid was recommended for \$148,432.
160

161 Luis Rodriguez explained he discussed the project with the recommended vendor and it was
162 determined the Groat Brothers was the responsive and low bidder.
163

164 **Motion Bid Award Rail Rd property demolition project Sheriff's Equipment and Coroner Storage**

165 Commissioner Branch moved to accept the recommendation to award the bid to Groat Brothers in the
166 amount of \$148,432 for the demolition project at 269 Rail Road property for the Sheriff's Equipment
167 and Coroner Storage building. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
168

169 A building permit is needed. The demo permit is prepared and will be in the name of the bidder along
170 with the value. Chief Worden explained the city originally had concern with the current building foot
171 print versus the new foot print. The city had considered only the building rather than including the
172 paved drive curtilage that was previously sent to them the drawings. This clarification was made with
173 the city and Chief Worden will move forward with building permit.
174

175 **Discussion-Broad Band Action Team Update-Roni Holder Diefenbach**

176 Commissioners discussed the Broad Band Action Team's request that GIS attend the meetings. Ms.
177 Diefenbach explained the reason was because a lot of agencies claim to provide certain speeds to
178 their customers, but we all know they are not providing those speeds, and so GIS helped establish the
179 map that will be used to challenge the lack of speed in the different areas of the county and the map
180 will be provided to the state to challenge the speeds.
181

182 OCEC was awarded funding \$5 million for the Methow, and Okanogan PUD received their funding for
183 their project middle mile in Conconully. Ms. Diefenbach explained the challenges that PUDs were
184 going through in accepting the 100% grant funding. If not resolved, the challenges would have affected
185 rural areas ability to apply for the funds. She said the challenges were resolved so things can move
186 forward. We are one of the counties with shovel ready projects and can move forward with our projects.
187

188 Mr. Diefenbach explained the work to identify where infrastructure will be placed. She said a lot of the
189 land lines are not being replaced and many rural areas that do not have broadband or access to
190 wireless internet cannot make calls and had complained about the situation. Many areas are high
191 poverty areas and the land line is their only way to communicate for emergency services etc....
192

193 Commissioners reviewed the ARPA allocations, what was spent and remaining balances. They
194 reduced the Sheriff Morgue allocation from \$500,000 to \$100,000 and asked the Clerk of the Board to
195 draft an amended resolution and draft a budget supplemental to put the funds to the other line items
196 where needed. Commissioner Branch explained the Justice Building purchase expenditure that needs
197 to be moved into a prior year report.
198

199 **Motion Meeting Minutes April 22, 23, and 30, 2024**

200 Commissioner Hover moved to approve meeting minutes of April 22, 23 and 30, 2024 as corrected.
201 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
202

203 **Approve Consent Agenda**

204 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda item, as presented. Motion was
205 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

206 **1. ARPA Req#2-Indigent Defense Costs-\$15,500**

207
208

209 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 66-2024 amending the Fairgrounds Fee Schedule.
210 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

211

212 **Motion Methow Valley EMS District**

213 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Methow Valley EMS
214 District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

215

216 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Methow Valley
217 EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$89,449.43 for May services. Motion was
218 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

219

220 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS District and Reconvene as the
221 Oroville Rural EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

222

223 **Motion Data Sharing Agreement State Auditor**

224 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the chairman to sign the Data Sharing Agreement
225 between Oroville Rural EMS District and the State Auditor's office. Motion was seconded, all were
226 in favor, motion carried.

227

228 The board adjourned at 3:43p.m.

229