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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

MAY 8, 2023

8:00 AM Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda
9:15 AM Public Comment Period
9:30 AM Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i)
10:00 AM Commissioners' Staff Meeting
10:30 AM Update- Superior Court Clerk- Susan Speiker
11:00 AM Discussion- District Use- Pete Palmer
To Follow Briefing -Discuss individual Weekly Meetings and Schedules
1:30 PM Discussion- Proposed Chief Civil Deputy Pay Request- Paul Budrow, David Yarnell
2:00 PM Discussion- Team Okanogan- Chairman Branch
4:00 PM Interview Katherine Jourdan Water Conservancy Board Appointee

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on May 8, 2023 with Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; and the Deputy Clerk of the Board, Crystal Hawley, present.

Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch was absent.

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

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda

The commissioners reviewed their agenda and consent agenda.

Public Comment Period

Emily Sisson was present.

There was no public comment.

Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i)

Commissioner Neal moved to go into Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i) at 9:30 for 15 minutes, inviting Esther Miner and Human Resources/ Risk Manager, Shelley Keitzman. Motion was seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Executive Session ended at 9:45. No decisions made.

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

Emergency Manager, Maurice Goodall, Fairgrounds Manager, Naomie Peasley, were present for staff.

Fairgrounds

Fairgrounds Manager, Naomie Peasley, provided her department update. Even though they were over booked over the weekend, the three events went very well.

The online reservation is now up on the county's website, so she encourages folks to utilize it.

53
54 Ms. Peasley provided an amendment to the agreement that Commissioner Hover originally signed
55 for the Fairs Program Grant that expires August 31, 2023. Agreement K3692, executed January
56 27, 2022, awarded \$250,000 to replace the horse stalls and the racetrack rail, repairing the horse
57 starting gates and stalling lighting on the Fairgrounds.

58
59 **Motion- Amendment to Agreement K3692**

60 Commissioner Neal moved to approve and directed Commissioner Hover to sign the Amendment
61 to Agreement K3692 between The Washington State Department of Agriculture and Okanogan
62 County. Motion was seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

63
64 Ms. Peasley introduce her new Secretary Assistant, Bobbi Stanfield.

65
66 Commissioner Hover would like Ms. Stanfield to start attending the Fair Advisory Meeting that are
67 held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room every first Thursday of the month.

68
69 Emergency Management

70 Emergency Manager, Maurice Goodall, provided his department update. There was more water
71 released from the Conconully reservoir causing Salmon Creek water levels to rise. One bridge
72 was closed due to about four inches of water over the bridge.

73
74 Sand bags were delivered to Twisp and Mazama.

75
76 Department of Transportation had advised that there was water over the roadway west of the
77 Weeman Bridge, up Highway 20, Winthrop, WA due to flooding. At this time the road is still open
78 with signs advising about the water over the roadway.

79
80 Mr. Goodall further explained that Buzzard Lake Road (Arlington Ridge) is closed west of the
81 Windy Hill intersection and impassable due to mud slides. Public Works is aware of the situation.

82
83 **Update- Superior Court Clerk- Susan Speiker**

84 Superior Court Clerk, Susan Speiker, updated the commissioners on her department updates.
85 Ms. Speiker explained that shelving is going up in her Exhibit Room. Tim Meadow and Roy
86 Wadkins from the maintenance department have been amazing and have done a great job
87 working on maintenance solutions with Ms. Speiker.

88
89 Ms. Speiker received Blood Borne Pathogen Training.

90
91 Ms. Speiker sent her Superior Court Chief over to Steven's County for training and her office will
92 be going to North West Justice for training in groups next week.

93
94 The Clerk's Office lost their e-filing system about a year ago because of lack of funds. So, she
95 will be partnering up with Karen in the IT Department to utilize the program, Serv-U, for their e-
96 filing system.

97
98 Commissioner Branch arrived at 10:45

99
100 **Discussion- District Use- Pete Palmer**

101 Planning Director, Pete Palmer, discussed with the commissioners the district use chart for
102 Okanogan County.

103 Ms. Palmer explained the changes that were proposed on the county district use chart. The
104 commissioners discussed the agricultural part of the chart and made some changes to the
105 proposed chart.

106
107 The commissioners and Ms. Palmer discussed the difference between Rural 1, Rural 5 and Rural
108 20 with pros and cons on making changes.

109
110 Commissioner Hover pulled up 5.28.090 on Subdivisions.

111
112 All final short plats and long plats, in accordance with OCC Title 16, shall include the following
113 plat disclaimer:

114
115 Okanogan County maintains a Right-to-Farm ordinance (OCC 5.28). Okanogan County will not
116 consider inconveniences or discomforts arising from farms and farm or range operations to be a
117 nuisance if the farm or farm or range operation conforms to generally accepted agricultural and
118 management practices.

119
120 The commissioners reviewed the auto wrecking operation portion of the code.

121
122 Ms. Palmer explained that she will reach out to her GIS and have them create a map for each
123 district to make it easier to review.

124
125 Commissioner Hover would propose to put on hold a stipulated order portions of the CODE and
126 revisit for a more in-depth discussion.

127
128 **Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss individual Weekly Meetings and Schedules**

129 The commissioners briefed among themselves, discussing their weekly meetings and schedules.

130
131 The Clerk of the Board, Lanie Johns, took meeting minutes for the rest of the meetings.

132
133 **Discussion- Proposed Chief Civil Deputy Pay Request- Sheriff Paul Budrow, David Yarnell**
134 Sheriff Budrow explained his request for a salary increase for his appointed Chief Civil Deputy,
135 Beth Barker. He said because of the work the employee does protecting the county from liability
136 the wage should be the same as his other Chief appointees. The range he would like considered
137 is between \$82,300 and \$133,000 for the person. A resolution, salary survey and job description
138 were presented. (attached) Commissioner Hover stated he was not ready to decide today.

139
140 Chief Budrow explained the lack of adequate Designated Crisis Responder services in the jail.
141 He said OBHC only comes emergencies only. Stephen Wolak, Chief Correction Deputy spoke
142 about the needs of the jail for regular and emergency related mental services and the lack thereof.
143 Emergency situations are being cleared by OBHC's none DCR personnel who are not qualified.
144 Commissioner Hover would like to discuss this issue with OBHC. OBHC says they do not have a
145 contract with the Jail to do this. Because of the amount of money, the county provides to OBHC
146 there should be an agreement. They are the county's designated Mental Health Provider.
147 Commissioner Hover said if we have to provide money he would rather it come out of the mental
148 health money. If we cannot find out what is going on and they do not have the capacity to do this
149 then the county should reduce the amount by the amount it would cost for the county to provide.

150
151
152

153 Commissioner Branch asked if the Sheriff had a proposal for a dedicated DCR service provider
154 outside of OBHC? Yes, there is someone in mind. Commissioner Hover would like to have the
155 discussion up front with OBHC. OBHC has no DCR's, said the Sheriff, and that is why they were
156 sending others to the county when called.

157
158 Sheriff Budrow stated Steve Perry was hired to do an audit of the evidence room and now after
159 the fact asking for permission to sign the agreement with him for \$1700 for the audit to get us up
160 to a legitimate area. The county has done the audits up until now. He is working with the
161 prosecutor on it. The document has not arrived, the product is an audit that lays out what is right
162 what needs to be done etc.... Commissioner Branch said the cost must not have been anticipated
163 and is not in the budget.

164
165 Sheriff Budrow said we also need to start thinking about building a new jail. Commissioner Hover
166 said we are going to need to talk with Washington DC for some money. Commissioner Branch
167 asked if a joint facility is considerable. Sheriff thought that was for mental health facility.
168 Commissioner Branch said Douglas, Chelan and Okanogan County need jail space and they do
169 have an interest in a joint facility. Sheriff Budrow said it was unclear where that would be located
170 since Okanogan County is so big. Small towns are going to struggle with that too. Sheriff gave
171 heads up about jail budget requests because the can has been kicked down the road in terms of
172 beds. It is nasty ripped and torn. DOC changes their beds every six months. Chief Wolak showed
173 an example of a mattress. We received hand-me downs from the tribe that were better than what
174 we had. Commissioner Hover said this is the first time he's heard of this. He asked for a prioritized
175 list of needs according to assumed costs.

176
177 Sheriff Budrow said there are also training needs in order to become compliant and a \$2000
178 training budget is not going to cover the costs. Commissioner Hover stated there is a bunch of
179 money in the Sheriffs budget due to unfilled positions that could cover those costs within their
180 current budget. Sheriff Budrow said Lexapro for the Jail is concerned as the Jail is running on a
181 1988 policy. The 1988 code is the only policy the Jail has to operate on and things have changed
182 a lot since then. He has pulled language from other counties that are currently being used.
183 Commissioner Branch asked that revisions be brought to the table for incorporation so the Board
184 is aware and can consider incorporation.

185
186 Commissioner Branch stated the board is reviewing the code right now including jail standards
187 ordinance and chief Civil Attorney is working through the code revisions.

188
189 Sheriff Budrow asked the board to consider allowing his administration staff the same medical
190 benefit as the guild. The benefits package admin has doesn't make sense and costs a lot more
191 to add their families at about \$1700 out of pocket to cover his family. The cost affects don't make
192 those positions easy to fill. Non-union employees do not receive the same benefit as union
193 employees because it would cost the county a lot of money, said Commissioner Hover. If it is to
194 be done it would be done for everyone said, Commissioner Hover.

195
196 Sheriff Budrow said there a bunch of grants his office cannot manage, because the staff that can
197 manage them want more pay. He said he may lose the grants. He wants to look at a way to pay
198 an exempt employee overtime to work on those grants. If he works the overtime shift they can do
199 the inspections, they lost the parks grant and they gave some money to do it this year to prove
200 they can do it for next year and it helps them buy boats and equipment and inspect. An approval
201 through resolution or something to approve this type of extra pay for the work. Commissioner
202 Hover would like to see how other counties did it that would make it easier. Sheriff Budrow said
203 he doesn't have the bodies to do the work.

204
205 Rick Ballam said the Chief Civil Deputy position salary was 44% below what other counties pay
206 the same type of worker.

207
208 **Motion Cooperating Agency Status Request Letter to National Park Service Regarding**
209 **Grizzly Bear**

210 Commissioner Hover moved to sign the Cooperating Agency Status Request Letter to National
211 Park Service regarding Grizzly bear restoration statement. Motion was seconded, all were in
212 favor, motion carried.

213
214 Commissioner Hover left the meeting at 1:30 p.m. due to a commitment to attend another county
215 related meeting.

216
217 **Discussion- Team Okanogan- Animal Control Ordinance Chairman Branch**
218 Jancey Marsh Team Okanogan Rescue. Team Okanogan Animal Rescue is newly formed 501c3.
219 Each of the six provide a different skill set. Jill Service over 30 Cindy Posh Friday harbor, Pam
220 Tell Oroville long time, Stephanie Kramer volunteer, Rita Kessle Omak

221
222 Ms. Jancey Marsh would like to find a way to collaborate with the county to solve the animal
223 issues in Okanogan County. The issues will take a lot of work. She discussed the work the group
224 has done to secure a building to house a centralized shelter that serves the county. The group
225 requested the county consider some of its land as the group can secure funding for the building
226 but needs land in order to do so. Commissioners discussed the proposal and how the county
227 might help. The group discussed what has been done so far and the overwhelming need to
228 address the animal issues they found. The group has set out to work with the shelters. She
229 explained the lack of strategy, lack of shelter to house the dogs, the work to unite all the rescues
230 towards the one goal. The group is called TEAM Okanogan. To-date the group has coordinated
231 and delivered over 17,000 pounds of dog food, paid to microchip over 200 animals, learned best
232 practices for adopting animals back into the community and provided spay and neuter clinics from
233 vets from other counties.

234
235 Mayor of Omak Cindy Gagne and Police Chief Christensen commented on the City's animal
236 control needs and challenges. The Chief provided a white paper including call volume data.

237
238 Deputy Dave Yarnell explained his experience dealing with animal control for the county and the
239 efforts he made to amend the Dog Control Ordinance. A draft was created but never approved.
240 The county must have a dedicated, specially trained animal control officer in place otherwise the
241 deputies will be diverted from crimes.

242
243 Commissioner Branch said there is public works property in north Omak the county will be
244 discussing with the public works engineer. That property is so convenient, people are traveling to
245 Walmart, and law enforcement is able to monitor, it isn't near residents or other areas. Once the
246 land is in hand the volunteers can work on the building and staffing. Without land in the plan they
247 cannot raise the money. The commissioners thanked the group for their work and attention to this
248 cause.

249
250 **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)**
251 Commissioner Neal moved to go into executive session at 3:38 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. under RCW
252 42.30.110 (1)(i) inviting Planning Director Pete Palmer and Chief Civil Attorney Esther Milner.
253 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

254

255 Commissioners exited executive session at 4:00 p.m. no decisions were made.

256

257 **Interview Katherine Jourdan Water Conservancy Board Appointee**

258 Commissioner Branch asked some questions of Ms. Jourdan. In a scenario, if she were
259 representing a client in Chelan County how would she deal with a water transfers out of Okanogan
260 County to Chelan county that benefited her client. Ms. Jourdan stated she could recuse herself
261 and she did not believe she would be considering transfers that would benefit her family either
262 because her family doesn't live on the border of Chelan County and Okanogan County.
263 Commissioners were concerned about the appearance of bias for any transfers of water rights
264 outside of Okanogan County. She did not believe a conflict exists but she is very aware that if one
265 did she has a duty. As an attorney she has a back ground in water law but she doesn't deal with
266 it much as an attorney. She stated she has an apartment in Pateros, but her permanent address
267 is in Wenatchee at her parent's house.

268

269 Commissioner Branch explained Okanogan County is very interested in keeping water in
270 Okanogan County. He invited Ms. Jourdan to come back if there is anything like that being
271 considered or to just discuss water in general.

272

273 **Motion Appointment Letter Alternate Position #1 Okanogan Co. Water Conservancy Board**

274 Commissioner Neal moved to approve the appointment letter of Ms. Katherine Jourdan to the
275 Alternate Position #1 on the Okanogan County Water Conservancy Board. Motion was seconded,
276 all were in favor, motion carried.

277

278

279 The board adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

280