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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

NOVEMBER 21, 2022

9:00 AM Review Commissioners Agenda & Consent Agenda
9:10 AM Briefing Among Commissioners – Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedule
9:15 AM Public Comment Period
9:30 AM Discussion 2023 Insurance Premiums-Shelley Keitzman
To Follow Commissioners Staff Meeting
10:30 AM Discuss Summer Fire Season Follow-up-Dept of Natural Resources-Ken McNamee
~~**11:30 AM Update Fairgrounds-Naomie Peasley-Cancelled**~~
1:30 PM Budget Work Session -Public Works
4:30 PM Discussion Updated Legislative Needs Letter-Mike Worden

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on November 21, 2022 with Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; and the Deputy Clerk of the Board, Crystal Hawley, present.

Member, Commissioner Jim DeTro was absent.

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

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

The commissioners discussed about grizzly bears. The National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announced the initiation of a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process to evaluate options for restoring and managing grizzly bears in the North Cascades of Washington, where the animals once thrived. Grizzly bears roamed across the North Cascades for thousands of years as an essential part of the ecosystem, distributing native plant seeds and keeping other wildlife populations in balance. Commissioner Branch stated that you will always have problems with them, just like wolves. Commissioners Hover propose to write a letter to point out the comparisons.

Review Commissioners Agenda & Consent Agenda

The commissioners reviewed their agenda and consent agenda.

Briefing Among Commissioners – Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedule

The commissioners discussed their weekly meetings and schedules.

Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

Discussion 2023 Insurance Premiums-Shelley Keitzman

Shelley Keitzman, HR Director/Risk Manager Claims Administrator, explained there was a 12.61% increase for dental and stated our employee medical insurance renewal premiums show 12.86% increase for the upcoming 2023 year. The county would need to finalize its decision before the 1st of December.

Hover purposed to pay the difference out of current expense. Commissioner Branch agreed. Ms. Keitzman will prepare a resolution for the commissioners to approve.

52 The salary implementation schedule was provided to the commissioners. Changes and options for 2023
53 were discussed. Only employees that meet the exempt eligibility criteria may be considered exempt,
54 otherwise these are hourly employees that would get overtime.

55
56 Commissioner Hover would like to remove everyone from being exempt. Ms. Keitzman feels the
57 commissioners needs to look at each position, because some of the positions in the prosecutor's office
58 exceed the limits anyway. After further discussion, Commissioner Hover thought that everyone,
59 including HR, should be removed from being exempt position, but leaving the attorneys. Commissioner
60 Branch would like Ms. Keitzman to reach again to department heads to get their thoughts on the matter.

61
62 **Commissioners Staff Meeting**

63 Pete Palmer, Planning Director, Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager

64
65 Planning Department

66 Planning Director, Pete Palmer, went over her department updates. Ms. Palmer told the commissioners
67 that once the zone code was revised, she will be printing the final zoning map to hang in the
68 Commissioners' Hearing Room.

69
70 Ms. Palmer is looking at changing the process of applying for a permit to online, which would make the
71 process easier.

72
73 There have been some shoreline setbacks with site analysis.

74
75 Fairgrounds

76 Fairgrounds Manager, Naomie Peasley, updated the commissioners. Ms. Peasley explained that she
77 had emailed the commissioners the camera footage from the well issue and asked what were their
78 thoughts. Commissioner Hover said they will look at the footage and get back to her on what to do.

79
80 There are two events at the fairgrounds this week.

81
82 **Discussion Summer Fire Season Follow-up-Dept of Natural Resources-Ken McNamee**

83 Ken McNamee, Tim Love was present

84
85 Dept of Natural Resources, Tim Love, discussed the fire season. This year the fewest number of acres
86 burned in a decade. DNR bases crews and equipment out of dozens of locations across the state in
87 order to fight wildfire efficiently across 13 million acres of private, state and tribal-owned forestlands.
88 When conditions allow, DNR's aviation and helitack resources are often an important part of the
89 agency's rapid response efforts.

90 DNR's initial attack efforts strive to put fires out quickly; their goal is to see that nine out of every ten
91 fires on DNR-protected lands are out before they ever exceed 10 acres.

92
93 **Budget Work Session -Public Works**

94 Josh Thomson, Jerry Paul, Kent Kovalenko, Stephanie Fulmer

95
96 Josh Thomson, the County Engineer, explained that Washington is halfway through the inflation that
97 we are going to see. It will be fueled by actual money, not like the year 2007 when the market crashed.
98 The fuel charge rates reflect a carbon pollution price of \$65 per ton of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e)
99 in 2023 (the price currently reaches \$50 per ton in 2022), which will rise by \$15 per ton annually to
100 reach \$170 per ton in 2030.

101

102 The group reviewed the Shop department's 2023 revenue and expenditure budgets and the group
103 discussed the details with the department.

104
105 The Commissioners and the group discussed changes to Fund 501. After discussion, the group agreed
106 to color the tab green, for being complete.

107
108 The Commissioners and the group discussed changes to Fund 405. Several changes were made within
109 fund. The Auditor created a new BARS line and named it, Capital Expense Improvements for building
110 repairs. After discussion, the group agreed to color the tab green, for being complete.

111
112 The Commissioners and the group discussed changes to Fund 123. Closing the wells will cost \$50,000.

113
114 The Commissioners and the group discussed changes to Road Fund 102
115 Commissioner Hover explained there will be no more PILT funds coming in this year. After discussion,
116 the group agreed to color the tab green, for being complete.

117
118 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**
119 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those expense
120 reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a list, and made
121 available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to approve the regular
122 vouchers in the amount of \$875,858.15 Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list.
123 Motion seconded and carried.

124
125 **Motion Public Health Voucher**
126 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in the
127 amount of \$124,013.55. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was
128 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

129
130 **Discussion Updated Legislative Needs Letter-Mike Worden**
131 Chief Deputy of Spec Ops / Communications, Mike Worden, provided a drafted letter for the 7th and 12th
132 Districts Legislative Members. The commissioners and Mr. Warden discussed a few different alterations
133 that the commissioners would like him to change.

134
135 The board adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

136