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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

NOVEMBER 22, 2022

9:00 AM Review Meeting Minutes November 14 & 15, 2022
9:15 AM Public Comment Period
9:30 AM Discussion-Employee Leave Accrual & Use-Albert Lin
10:00 AM Discussion-Homeless Housing 2023 Funding Proposals-Rena Shawver
10:30 AM Update – Central Services – Karen Beatty
11:00 AM Bid Opening – Ellisforde Landfill Wells & Gas Probe Decommissioning– Stidman
To Follow Update – Public Works – Engineer Josh Thomson
1:30 PM Quarterly-Update-OBHC- David McClay
2:30 PM Executive Session 42.30.110 (1)(i)
3:30 PM Approve Commissioner Proceedings November 14 & 15, 2022
3:35 PM Approve Consent Agenda

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a Public Meeting at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on November 22, 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 and Zoom provided audio and video accessibility for public interaction.

Review Meeting Minutes November 14 & 15, 2022

The Clerk of the Board explained a call was received about the county owned Highland Drive properties. She suggested the caller attend a public comment period to express interest in the properties and learn the county's process.

Public Comment Period

Commissioner Hover opened up the public comment at 9:12 a.m. Ruth Hall had no comment. Pete Day asked about the two Highland Drive properties that the county owns. He asked what the county plans are for the properties. Would the county be willing to sell? Commissioner Hover stated the county would need to surplus and then sell during an auction to the general public. Will need to look at the county's capital improvement plan. Commissioner DeTro stated the buildings have asbestos and would need mitigation before renovations were made.

Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)

Commissioner Branch moved to go into executive session at 9:18 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. to discuss ongoing litigation with Esther Milner, Chief Civil Deputy. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners extended executive session for 5 additional minutes and invited Prosecutor, Albert Lin.

Discussion-Employee Leave Accrual & Use-Albert Lin

Shelley Keitzman, Christa Levine

Came to Albert attention regarding exempt leave and annual leave. Annual leave ended for exempt employees and were provided exempt leave. Some new employees were given exempt

53 leave but won't be able to carry over. Work place moral is affected because they won't be able to
54 use all their leave in the year provided. Other county leave info was gathered and discussed. The
55 county is looking at the big picture, no firm answer today, need another week to research and
56 understand. Albert replied it is an immediate concern this year and would like this addressed as
57 soon as possible. Commissioner Hover stated there are other exempt employees potentially
58 affected. He wants it fair across the board. State mandates exempt salary attorneys are over that
59 and would like to take everyone to hours except attorneys due to the nature of their job and ems.
60 There are a bunch of things that need to move around in order to make it work and be fair for
61 everyone. Will need to look at policy to remedy. Commissioner Branch asked the accrued leave
62 problem or use it or loose it. The key issue is the use it or lose it, but the policy impacts new
63 comers the most. The exempt leave is front loaded annually but pro-rated depending on when a
64 person starts. Albert stated his attorneys need licenses in order to practice law. 60-70 day
65 schedules and not as much flexibility to take time off. Commissioner Hover stated the board is
66 looking at a couple different models that includes accrual.

67
68 Ms. Levine shared the justification research along with comments from other counties.
69
70 It will take a week or two to come up with a solution, said Ms. Keitzman. The board thought a
71 solution would be determined by the end of the year unless additional concerns are made.
72

73 **Discussion-Homeless Housing 2023 Funding Proposals-Rena Shawver**

74 Those attending the meeting signed in.
75
76 Ms. Shawver provided the results of the RFP published in the local newspaper. (attached) Six
77 proposals were submitted. She explained the score sheet and how those were applied and an
78 average obtained. Each proposal meets a unique need in the community. This is the first time this
79 group has met. This is a process the group is looking at making improvements to.
80

- 81 Okanogan Community Homeless Shelter \$152,000
- 82 Housing Authority of Okanogan County \$15,000
- 83 Support Center \$38,271
- 84 Behavioral Health \$55,000
- 85 Foundation for Youth Resiliency & Engagement \$37,000
- 86 Room One \$30,000
- 87 Okanogan County Community Action Council \$52,500
- 88 Total of all requests **\$382,771**

89
90 Each agency discussed their proposal.
91
92 Eric Hein discussed the Okanogan Community Homeless Shelter's request of \$152,000 with
93 \$80,000 for the bricks and mortar, coming from Affordable Housing Funds. Includes staffing,
94 construction, facility maintenance and operations for FY 2023 (attached) The New Life Church is
95 putting up the only shelter accessible for men and women, but there is currently no year-round
96 shelter without stipulations. This project is a vital part of providing shelter in Okanogan.
97

98 Nancy Nash Mendez stated she is excited about working with the new Housing Coalition group.
99 Okanogan Housing Authority requested \$15,000 for FY2023. Funds will assist for intake, case
100 management, and referral services for homeless families. Ms. Nash Mendez explained new
101 projects she is seeking funds for in Methow. Omak Pioneer Park rural development property is
102 closing by mid-August. She explained the process for acquiring HUD property.
103

104 Ms. Shawver went over the Support Center's request proposal. (attached)

105

106 Carolbelle Branch went over OBHC's request proposal. (attached)

107

108 Michelle Sandoval, Co-Executive of FRYE explained what FYRE does and services provided.
109 FYRE started with a vision of co-founders to address the struggles of young people. Their request
110 was for \$37,000 to address housing instability, food instability, identification complexities,
111 education, social and emotional needs. Housing is a central need and impacts other barriers.
112 Commissioner Hover asked if a needs assessment on jobs and transportation to get people to
113 work was done? FYRE clients use of the bus services is not a consistent form of transportation
114 for work. Transportation is a huge barrier.

115

116 A man said a bus and driver service is in the process for individuals to call for transportation.

117

118 Room One, Katrina Goering provided a summary of the Room One request of \$30,000 and what
119 the funds will be used for. (attached) An increase over last year is specifically for youth services.

120

121 Jennifer Short Programs Director, introduced Jen Harbor Support Services Manager. She
122 summarized Community Action Council's request of \$52,500 to be used for emergency and
123 transitional housing expenses for very low-income individuals. (attached) Right now spending
124 \$20,000 per month providing shelter.

125

126 The budget for 2023 was reviewed and Commissioner Hover input the numbers into fund 141 and
127 142. Funds were available to fully fund the requests.

128

129 **Update—Central Services—Karen Beatty**

130

131 **Bid Opening – Ellisforde Landfill Wells & Gas Probe Decommissioning– Stidman**

132 Commissioner Hover stated the time for receiving bids is here. Two bids were received. Engineer
133 Thomson explained the details of the decommissioning work. The Clerk of the Board stated
134 Empire Well Drilling bid was accidentally opened this morning, but resealed right away.
135 Commissioner Hover opened up the bids stating what was submitted by each bidder and the total
136 bid amount.

137

138 Rains Contracting, Malott

139 Total \$58,140.81 including 8.5% sales tax

140

141 Empire Well Drilling, Wenatchee

142 Total \$108,500 including 8.5% sales tax

143

144 **Update – Public Works – Engineer Josh Thomson**

145 Engineer Thomson provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there.

146

147 *Maintenance and Road Conditions*

148 Commissioner Hover discussed plowing prior to Thanksgiving. Public Works is getting caught up.
149 There are certain roads more difficult to get to.

150

151 *Federal STBG funds Exchange*

152 In the last legislative package DOT was supposed to make it happen. The funds come with a lot
153 of red tape and its difficult to meet the requirements in order to use it. The exchange allows fuel
154 tax dollars 90-95% of what they keep. The state is talking about this for counties not in an MPO,

155 requirements have not been determined for use, and program beginning in 2023. Funds would
156 come in the form of gas tax dollars. We would need to come up criteria to distribute between cities
157 and county. County would like it based on road miles versus population.

158

159 *Current Project Status*

160 Engineer Thomson discussed the status of the various projects listed as well as the project
161 timelines.

162

163 Engineer Thomson asked about the Federal Engineer's Conference in April. Commissioners were
164 alright with him attending.

165

166 Consent Agenda items were discussed.

167

168 Commissioner Hover recessed until 1:30 p.m.

169

170 **Quarterly-Update-OBHC- David McClay CEO OBHC**

171 Dennis Rabidou and Cory Johnson

172

173 Mr. McClay provided client reports covering data from July 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022.
174 (attached) He discussed vacancies that affect services. OBHC is adjusting therapist schedules,
175 there is a wait list, and they are working to get caught up. Interns require intensive program
176 oversight and supervision. It brings new people into the community and increases the capacity of
177 the people OBHC is able to see. The next order of business is going to be housing them.

178

179 People have been hired for the mobile crisis unit and they are starting to get out in the community.

180

181 OBHC is losing their Chief Financial Officer as he accepted a job in Tucson, AZ. Mr. McClay is
182 going to fill the role until someone is found. Still working on Medicaid rates because the structure
183 is 85-95% contract revenue of OBHC. The state has passed down rate cuts to MCO's that have
184 those contracts. He is asking they maintain the 7% rates.

185

186 Mr. McClay asked what the county is going to do with the Opioid settlement? Commissioner Hover
187 explained where the county is at in the settlement. The county submitted to be included in the
188 settlement payment, but the amount the county will receive isn't known. Commissioner Branch
189 stated the board is open to suggestions and a strategy. He doesn't think the county has a position
190 to discuss without having OBHC at the table. The distributors settlement total is \$518 million
191 dollars, which will be distributed over time. These funds are split between the state, local &
192 regional entities, and some attorney's fees. Amounts for all other settlements are not final.

193

194 Commissioner Hover stated the county is working to finalize its 2023 budget soon and will have
195 budget numbers for Mental Health, Alcohol, and Developmental Disabilities. These budgets were
196 reviewed. The Clerk of the Board will notify Mr. McClay of the amounts approved.

197

198 **Executive Session 42.30.110 (1)(i)**

199

200 **Approve Commissioner Proceedings November 14 & 15, 2022**

201 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the November 14 and November 15, 2022 board
202 proceedings. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

203

204

205

206 **Approve Consent Agenda**

207 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-10, as presented. Motion
208 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

- 209 1. Re-appointment Letter-Civil Service Commission-Bertha Wandler
210 2. Re-Appointment Letter-Water Conservancy Board-Anna Burica
211 3. Bid Award-Chip Spreader-PacWest Machinery Spokane Valley, WA
212 4. Agreement Supplement-2023 Guardrail Safety Project
213 5. Agreement Lodging Taxes-LTAC23-004 Loup Loup Ski
214 6. Agreement County ARPA Funding-Community Action Council
215 7. Agreement Teamsters Local Union No760-Public Works Road Division
216 8. Agreement Amendment #1-Lodging Taxes LTAC 23-014-OCTC-DMO
217 9. CDBG Public Service Grant No. 22-62210-011 -Req #1 July, Aug. Sept. & Oct
218 10. Resolution 175-2022 Title III Funds Allocation

219

220 **Motion Letter Funding Needs Request**

221 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the letter to the
222 legislators requesting a \$3 million-dollar appropriation to complete radio communications network.
223 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

224

225 **Motion Agreement Office of Public Defense 2023**

226 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the agreement No ICA23024 between Okanogan County
227 and Office of Public Defense for 2023 funding in the amount of \$48,532. Motion was seconded, all
228 were in favor, motion carried.

229

230 **Motion Request for Reimbursement #2 A19-DAHP Courthouse Exterior Renovations Project**

231 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the DAHP A19
232 reimbursement request #2 in the amount of \$21,709.13. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
233 motion carried.

234

235 **Motion MOA Sheriff's Employee Association (Commissioned)**

236 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Okanogan
237 County and the Okanogan County Sheriff's Employee Association (Commissioned) regarding
238 holidays. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

239

240 **Motion MOA Sheriff's Employee Association (Non-Commissioned)**

241 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Okanogan
242 County and the Okanogan County Sheriff's Employee Association (Non-Commissioned) regarding
243 holidays. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

244

245 **Motion Agreement Amendment #1 LTAC-23-014-OCTC (DMO)**

246 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the Okanogan County Tourism Council Destination
247 Marketing Organization funding agreement amendment #1 LTAC 23-014 regarding FY2023
248 Lodging Tax funding in the amount of \$300,000. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
249 carried.

250

251 **Motion Agreement LTAC 22-006 Methow Arts Alliance**

252 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the LTAC agreement 22-006 between Okanogan County
253 and Methow Arts Alliance for FY2022 LTAC funding in the amount of \$16,500. Motion was
254 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

255

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257

258 **Motion Agreement LTAC 23-006 Methow Arts Alliance**
259 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the LTAC agreement 23-006 between Okanogan County
260 and Methow Arts Alliance for FY2023 LTAC funding in the amount of \$18,000. Motion was
261 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

262
263 **Motion Resolution 176-2022 Probation Manager Position Reclassification**
264 Commission moved to approve resolution 176-2022 a reclassification of the Probation Manager
265 Position from grade 31 step 5 to grade 36 step 3. Motion was seconded, Commissioner Hover
266 discussed, all were in favor, motion carried.

267
268 **Motion Resolution 177-2022 Delta Dental Insurance Premium Coverage Costs**
269 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve resolution 177-2022 increasing Delta Dental insurance
270 premium cap rate from \$80.95 per month to \$91.09 per month to cover the monthly premiums.
271 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

272
273 **Motion Resolution 178-2022 Sheriff's Administration Insurance Cap**
274 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve resolution 178-2022 increasing the Sheriff's Office
275 administration insurance cap from \$831 per month to \$843 per month to cover the employee only
276 portion of the premiums. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

277
278 **Motion Resolution 179-2022 Increasing the Non-Bargaining Insurance Cap**
279 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve resolution 179-2022 increasing the Non-Bargaining
280 employee insurance cap from \$797 per month to \$884 per month to cover the employee only
281 portion of the premiums. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

282
283 **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)**
284 Commissioner DeTro moved to go into executive session at 2:30 p.m. for 30 minutes inviting
285 Planning Director Pete Palmer, and attorneys Esther Milner, Tadas Kisielius and Jenna Mendall-
286 Rice to discuss legal matters. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

287
288 Commissioners extended executive session at 3:00 for another 10 minutes.

289
290 Executive Session ended at 3:10 p.m. no decisions were made.

291
292 The board adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

293