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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

8 **9:00 AM** Review Meeting Minutes October 30th, 2023
9 **9:15 AM** Public Comment Period
10 **9:30 AM** Round Table-Finance Discussion-Cari Hall, Pam Johnson, Lisa Schreckengost, Becky
11 Abrahamson
12 **10:30 AM** Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Clerks Office
13 **10:35 AM** Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Public Works
14 **10:40 AM** Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental App.-Non-Dept. 001.015 & Liability & Property
15 Insurance 146
16 **10:45 AM** Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Equipment Reserve Fund 196
17 **10:50 AM** Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Fair Fund 112
18 **10:55 AM** Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Non-Dept. \$450,000
19 **11:00 AM** Update-Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson
20 **To Follow** Commissioner to set Wednesdays Agenda if Needed
21 **1:30 PM** Discussion-Methow Wildlife Area Winter Closures-Brock Hoenes, Justin Haug
22 **2:30 PM** Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Title III
23 **2:35 PM** Discussion-Count Draft Asset Policy-Auditor Hall, Treasurer Johnson
24 **4:00 PM** Approve Meeting Minutes October 30, 2023
25 **4:15 PM** Voucher Approval
26 **4:30 PM** Approve Consent Agenda

28 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue
29 North, Okanogan, Washington on November 7, 2023 with Chairman, Commissioner Chris
30 Branch; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; and
31 the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

32
33 AV Capture and Zoom provided audio and video accessibility for public interaction.

34
35 **Review Meeting Minutes October 30th, 2023**

36
37 **Public Comment Period**

38 Member of the public, Ruth Hall attended via Zoom

39
40 Commissioner Branch asked Ms. Hall for comment, she asked the Deputy Clerks name for
41 her notes. She also stated that she was grateful for the lack of snow from last year.

42
43 **Round Table-Finance Discussion-Cari Hall, Pam Johnson, Lisa Schreckengost,**

44 Commissioners and Finance Committee discussed 2024 budgets for Stadium Tourism fund
45 126, Mental Health fund 104, Developmental Disabilities fund 107, and Alcohol Drug Abuse
46 Fund 105. Resolution 69-1997 distributes 50% MH funds to Alcohol fund. Resolution 144-
47 2016 redirects 30% of the 50% to Dev Dis fund. Does the board wish to continue the
48 arrangement?

53 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Clerks Office**

54 Clerk Susan Speiker

55
56 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing. Clerk Speiker stated there were
57 unforeseen expenses due to their vehicle taking away from the budget the supplemental
58 revenue was from within the Clerk's revenue funds. Commissioner Branch opened up the
59 hearing to the public. Member of the public Ruth Hall had no comment.

60

61 **Motion Resolution 149-2023 Budget Supplemental Appropriation Clerk**

62 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution 149-2023 a budget supplemental within the
63 Clerk's budget in the amount of \$4,500. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
64 carried.

65

66 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Public Works**

67 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing. County Engineer Josh Thomson
68 reported on why the budget supplemental was needed within the Solid Waste fund.

69

70 **Motion Resolution 150-2023 Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Public Works**

71 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 150-2023 a budget supplemental
72 appropriation within Solid Waste Fund in the amount of \$45,000. Motion was seconded, all
73 were in favor, motion carried.

74

75 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental App.-Non-Dept. 001.015 & Liability & Property Insurance 146**

76 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing to public comment, no public wished to
77 comment

78

79 **Motion Resolution 151-2023 Budget Supplemental Contingency Reserve & Fund 146**

80 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution 151-2023 a Budget Supplemental within
81 Current Expense Contingency Reserve and Liability & Property Insurance Fund 146 in the
82 amount of \$423,987. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

83

84 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Equipment Reserve Fund 196**

85 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing to public comment, no public wished to
86 comment.

87

88 **Motion Resolution 152-2023 Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Equipment Reserve Fund 196**

89 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution 152-2023 a Budget Supplemental
90 Appropriation within the Current Expense Contingency Reserve Equipment Reserve Fund
91 196 in the amount of \$59,100. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

92

93 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Fair Fund 112**

94 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing to public comment, no public wished to
95 comment.

96

97 **Motion Resolution 153-2023 Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Fair Fund 112**

98 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution Budget Supplemental Appropriation within
99 the Fair Fund 112 in the amount of \$37,550. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
100 carried.

101

102 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Non-Dept. \$450,000**
103 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing to public comment, no public wished to
104 comment.

105
106 **Motion Resolution 154-2023 Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Non-Dept. \$450,000**
107 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution 154-2023 a Budget Supplemental
108 Appropriation within Contingency Reserve and Investment Interest in the amount of
109 \$450,000. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

110
111 **Update-Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson**
112 Engineer Thomson provided his public works agenda and discussed the items listed there.
113 (attached)

114
115 *Maintenance & Road Conditions*
116 Efforts are getting ready for winter. Still working on bank stabilization on West Fork Salmon
117 Creek.

118
119 *Bridge Inspections*
120 Completed last month, no concerns. There will be a lot more detailed info to input over the
121 next few years as required.

122
123 *Annual Construction Program*
124 The snap shot of proposed projects information including project estimates.

125
126 *Similkameen Trail*
127 The Board discussed for funding. There are issues with the trestle portion across the gorge.
128 The Back-Country Horsemen were very involved in improving Whistler Canyon Trail
129 improvements. The BOCC would like the new Parks and Rec employee, Amy Staggs be
130 involved with the needed applications for funds to improve both those trails. A portion of the
131 Similkameen Trail head that starts in Oroville was going to be turned over to the city of Oroville
132 for maintenance, but the transaction has not been completed. Except for the tunnel the trail
133 goes all the way up to Night Hawk. Commissioner Branch stated the investment to improve
134 the tunnel would be a great tourism draw. It would make a huge difference. Commissioners
135 discussed the private land owners nearby.

136
137 The Oroville Initiative applied for LTAC funds and BOCC would like get their feed back on
138 willingness to take some of the trail improvement projects on. The County now has a person
139 who can work with them on the plan for these trails.

140
141 The Clerk of the Board stated the LTAC paid for TREAD Map but neither the Similkameen
142 nor the Whistler Canyon Trail appeared to be on the app. Commissioner Hover stated this
143 seemed like information the DMO would provide for the app and also have on the Okanogan
144 Country website.

145
146 *Request for Easement Across County Tax Title Parcel*
147 Engineer Thomson explained a request to purchase easement across county tax title property
148 was received from Jacek Mrugala. The county parcel number is 5050080002. The county
149 parcel is adjacent to the requestor's parcel which is a very steep hillside. Commissioner Hover
150 stated he isn't interested in providing an easement and would rather sell it. The BOCC

151 discussed going through the process to surplus the parcel and then auctioning it at the tax
152 sale in December, which would give the adjacent property owner a chance to purchase it.

153

154 *Urban Area Revision for Road Classifications-Boundary Review Team Map*

155 Engineer Thomson explained what is affected by the revision. Southern portion of Rodeo Trail
156 and Shumway and he is leaning toward urban designation for both. The northern portion of
157 Rodeo trail would stay rural.

158

159 Commissioners discussed Cougar Creek Road. There are two other roads that are not county
160 roads that were addressed by Planning but no coordinated with Public Works for official road
161 logs. The East Fork Cougar Creek Road address was assigned by Planning.

162

163 Consent Agenda items were reviewed.

164

165 Recessed for lunch at 12:13 p.m.

166 Returned at 1:23 p.m.

167

168 **Commissioner to set Wednesdays Agenda if Needed**

169

170 **Discussion-Methow Wildlife Area Winter Closures-Brock Hoenes**

171 Scott Fitkin

172

173 Mr. Hoenes explained a presentation to be given about Methow Wildlife Area-Winter Closures
174 proposals. (attached) December 15 through March 31. No groomed or recreation routes are
175 included. The closures will help critical mule deer range area habitats. Some portions of USFS
176 routes through the closed areas will remain open. Includes about 65% of the Methow Wildlife
177 Area but only 2.2% pf the total public lands in the Methow watershed area

178

179 The Golden Doe area is already a higher density area. Big Buck unit did burn and the western
180 half with higher elevations will be closed. Frost road will remain open to Frost Lake. The road
181 is the boundary of the closure. Methow Unit-North is one of the original habitat areas. There
182 is very little shrub cover, but does have a lot of winter recreation. The USFS road will remain
183 open. Methow Unit-South historically have had high winter deer in the area, but burned and
184 is slowly rebounding. He isn't seeing as many deer as expected in this area. Lester, Beaver
185 Creek and Cougar Lake Roads will remain open. A portion will remain open in the north west
186 corner of this area due to not seeing many deer there and many recreate there. Rendezvous
187 Unit have snow loads not conducive to deer. So, they propose to keep the north half open.
188 Gunn Ranch Road will remain open, but it will be monitored closely.

189

190 There is a lot of boundary to sign, Brock asked how that will be accomplished. Designs are
191 already being used for Elk, but getting them up is labor intensive. Contract with ICC, so they
192 do have help. The boundaries need to be designated so there will be many signs.

193

194 The need for the closures was discussed. Mule deer distress is the main reason but there are
195 also greater human disturbances in the winter range area of the deer and it has indicated an
196 impact on the winter range and deer. Winter range availability is also limited for populations.
197 The focus on the Mule deer is because they are the foundation to the ecosystems and are a
198 critical food source for many carnivores and scavengers. They are also a prized game species
199 and the most popular watchable wildlife species. White Tail have a lot of adaptability and are

200 seen in down town, whereas the Mule deer aren't as adaptable, said Commissioner Hover.
201 He asked about the collared deer and why those are being used. It helps with deer migration
202 data. Some data showed the deer going from Carlton all the way up into Canada. The data
203 is used to estimate mortality rates.

204
205 Local data was discussed, but there aren't enough resources to apply and no way to it with
206 what they have, so other indices are used to see the trends. Trends are not going as
207 expected.

208
209 Scott Fitkin said his recommendation would be to suspend all antlerless mule deer hunting.
210 Crafting a season for all the mixed types is very difficult. Tag draws for different areas, types
211 of permits, in order to allow better genetics here that we used to have was discussed. Brock
212 said there is more energy behind these conversations than ever before. Commissioner Hover
213 noted he's heard rumblings about the game commissions lack of following the science. A lot
214 of people in this county value wildlife and we have to manage the animals' both predators
215 and the deer.

216 Feedback about the proposed closure was gathered from people who use the land.
217 Commissioners provided feed back as well and appreciated the information and coordination
218 with WDFW's proposed actions to close certain wildlife areas.

219
220 NGO's and other organized groups that address the deer and things like this that don't require
221 rule making. Season setting is always difficult and is a statewide process. Updating the
222 Methow Wildlife plan an advisory committee can be formed with local voices providing input.
223 Whenever it requires a vote it has to be presented as a statewide initiative. Commissioner
224 Branch stated there are many ideas out there. Mule Deer Foundation is against baiting deer.
225 It is alarming and goes against his way of hunting. Commissioner Hover requested measures
226 of success of the monitoring and the plan to address the numbers and asked that the
227 information and data be emailed to the board.

228
229 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Title III**
230 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing for a budget supplemental appropriation
231 within the Title III fund.

232
233 **Motion Resolution 155-2023 Budget Supplemental Appropriation Title III**
234 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 155-2023 a budget supplemental
235 appropriation within Title III for \$39,710. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
236 carried.

237
238 **Discussion-Count Draft Asset Policy-Auditor Hall, Treasurer Johnson**
239 Auditor Cari Hall, Treasurer Pam Johnson, Finance Manager Lisa Schreckengost

240
241 Auditor Hall explained confusion happens when the current policy separates the Capital Asset
242 and Small and Attractive lists instead of creating one list with both and submitting those at
243 the same time.

244
245 The Small and Attractive items are things people can steal and maintaining a list that is
246 accurate provides accountability for our assets.

247
248 Section 5.4 was requested to be added by the county Treasurer.

249 Section 5.3 was left in the policy.

250

251 The group discussed inventory plans and replacement schedules that are connected and
252 would be updated annually together.

253

254 Treasurer Johnson stated she spoke to the bank about a line of credit for Aeneas Lake
255 Irrigation and the bank will not be able to carry a loan for the district due to the district's lack
256 of accountability. Their last audit was not good either. It is up to the county treasurer to decide
257 if an agency is allowed to be on registered warrants. But, she does feel the commissioners
258 should have an opinion and understanding of the factors involved. The arrangement was that
259 the district would be off registered warrants by 2024. Auditor Hall will provide a list of paid
260 invoices. They are scheduled to discuss their situation on November.

261

262 **Approve Meeting Minutes October 30, 2023**

263

264 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

265 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and
266 those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been
267 recorded on a list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by
268 unanimous vote, to approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$1,498,031.54. Warrant
269 numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

270

271 Shelley Keitzman provided info on Celeste Pugsley's civil Service Appointment.

272

273 **Approve Consent Agenda**

274 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-7, as presented. Motion
275 was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

276

277 1. **Resolution 156-2023 Directing County Engineer to Report-Vacation of Platted Road within Lost**
278 **River Rd Airport Tracts**

279 2. ~~Contract-Grant# FY23 SHSP E24-138 WA State Military Department-Emergency Mang.~~

280 3. **Contract-2023 LTAC Winthrop Ice & Sports Rink-\$5,300**

281 4. **Appointment Letter-Okanogan County Civil Service Commission-Celeste Pugsley**

282 5. **Agreement-OC Sheriff Employee Association & Okanogan County-Preamble**

283 6. **Contract Amendment-Contractor Name Change-Burica | Hass, PLLC to Burica Law, PLLC**

284 7. **Resolution 143-2023-Reclassify Fairgrounds Facility Manager to Exempt & Contracted**

285

286 Commissioner Hover moved to reconsider the previous motion due to clarification about why
287 two commissioners signature lines were on Item 2 and not just the Chairman.

288

289 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items minus Item #2. Motion
290 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

291

292 **Motion Resolution 148-2023 Additional Compensation**

293 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 148-2023 additional compensation to
294 Maurice Goodall in the amount of \$500 for work outside normal work responsibilities for fair.
295 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

296

297

298

299 **Motion OPD Grant Acceptance**
300 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the 2024 Office of Public Defense Grant acceptance
301 of the grant amount of \$48,919. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
302

303 **Motion 2024 LTAC Funding Recommendations**
304 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the 2024 LTAC funding award allocations in the
305 amount of \$1,101,098. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
306

307 **Motion Employment Agreement Charles Ford**
308 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Employment Agreement between Okanogan
309 County and Charles Ford, Fairgrounds Manager. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
310 motion carried.

311
312 Commissioner Neal discussed decision to do away with the NCW Library Book Mobile as it
313 was not due to a financial issue it was based on other unclear reasons. He said it was possibly
314 based on other areas of the district clientele not Okanogan County's clientele.
315

316 Commissioner Hover stated we need to express to the district why Okanogan County Book
317 Mobile should continue. Commissioners will invite Barbara Walters to come discuss the
318 decision.

319
320 The board adjourned at 4:55 p.m.