

1 **RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

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3 **OKANOGAN COUNTY**

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5 **OCTOBER 29, 2018**  
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7  
8 9:00 AM Review Commissioners' Agenda & Consent Agenda  
9 9:30 AM Briefing Among Commissioners'  
10 10:00 AM Budget Work Session-WSU Extension Office-Kayla Wells-Moses  
11 10:30 AM Update- Public Defender-Melissa McDougall, Tanya Craig  
12 11:00 AM Budget Work Session – Superior Court Clerk  
13 1:30 PM Update – Planning – Perry Huston  
14 4:00 PM Budget Work Session – Fairgrounds/Fair  
15 4:30 PM Review Meeting Minutes  
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17 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners' met for its regular session on October 29,  
18 2018, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro, Vice Chair Commissioner Chris Branch;  
19 Commissioner Andy Hover, Member and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.  
20

21 George Zittel arrived to discuss marijuana operations and asked Commissioner Branch for  
22 some time to discuss at 12:30 p.m. today.  
23

24 Cindy Gagne, Omak City Mayor and OCCAC Board President came in at around 9:00 a.m.  
25

26 **Follow Investigation OCCAC**

27 Ms. Gagne, provided the pre-litigation program summary report that was prepared by Clear  
28 Risk Solutions out of Ephrata, WA that investigated a complaint letter alleging  
29 mismanagement, misuse of funds and hostile work environment of Community Action  
30 Council. The investigator's name was Monte Redal. The investigator was not asked to  
31 render an opinion one way or the other as to any potential outcome nor was a  
32 recommendation given to take any course of action. Ms. Gagne stated the results of the  
33 investigation found the overall facts and conclusions did not support the allegation. The  
34 investigator was found to have provided a thorough report. The Council does not believe the  
35 relationship has been harmed due to the allegations. Ms. Gagne wanted to make certain the  
36 Board of County Commissioners' was satisfied with the investigative results and were  
37 satisfied with the work of the OCCAC Executive team going forward. The commissioners'  
38 acknowledged the results of the investigation. Ms. Gagne cancelled the meeting set on  
39 November 5 stating that time was no longer needed.  
40

41 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners'**

42 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080  
43 and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have  
44 been recorded on a list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did  
45 vote, by unanimous vote, to approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$580,288.64.  
46 Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and  
47 carried.  
48  
49

50 **Review Commissioners' Agenda & Consent Agenda**

51 Commissioners' reviewed their meeting packets.

52

53 **Briefing Among Commissioners'**

54 Commissioners' discussed meetings.

55

56 **Budget Work Session-WSU Extension Office-Kayla Wells-Moses**

57 Kellie Conn, Cari Hall and Treasurer Leah McCormack were present.

58

59 Commissioner Hover asked about the WSU Director and whether one has been hired.  
60 Ms. Moses stated the WSU Conner's program is what the Extension program operates  
61 under. Mike Gaffney is not interested in applying for the position but he is willing to  
62 remain acting director until one is appointed. The interview team is still being gathered.

63

64 WSU budget was reviewed. Questions asked and answered about expenses and  
65 necessities. Travel costs were increased due to having a full time person for 4-H and the  
66 director traveling to perform the workshops. It used to be half funded by WSU for the  
67 agent and 4-H coordinator. Rather than having a part time 4-H coordinator she wanted a  
68 full time coordinator and the line includes both agent and 4-H coordinator salaries.  
69 Commissioner Hover stated some help from the producers would be helpful. He would  
70 like to see some local contributions by local producers and those who receive  
71 agricultural education to help with things like travel. Ms. Moses does like the idea and  
72 thought an inquiry to the producers might generate some contributions to the program.  
73 Treasurer McCormack reminded the board that the WSU program is not mandated and  
74 was considered in the past as a nonessential program, although she does support the  
75 program as does the community. Commissioner Hover believes the community may be  
76 receptive to providing contribution.

77

78 Cattlemen and Cattlewomen do donate to the 4-H sponsor \$25 enrollment fee said Ms.  
79 Moses those checks went directly to WSU for enrollment fee, and other fees also went to  
80 WSU 4-H program. Donations that are spent out of the county budget must also be  
81 received there. Even if there was no extension program here they would have to go  
82 farther otherwise it would be by phone call and email. WSU is trying to figure out more to  
83 do with less. She fears the tree fruit specialists would be have to go to a menu where  
84 they would select the specific education they want then pay for just that, she hopes WSU  
85 doesn't go to that. The county has always paid for pieces of the 4-H coordinator and the  
86 director, but now it is a bit different. Commissioners' discussed what a contribution would  
87 do to help and accomplish the program. Programs offered also have other benefits. Ms.  
88 Moses suggested the TUFTS study that shows how 4-H contributes to the greater good  
89 of society and provides life skills to youth. Fund raisers are done but the revenue does  
90 not go into the county treasury. Any donations or contributions are given, then a different  
91 way to account for the funds will be needed so the people contribution know the funds  
92 are going towards what the funds were donated for.

93

94 Fund 130 WSU Publications fund was reviewed for revenue and expenditures.

95

96 **Update- Public Defender-Melissa McDougall, Tanya Craig**

97

98 Ms. Craig explained this meeting was set to provide the board with an update on the  
99 Public Defender contract. Ms. McDougall was invited to provide the update. She  
100 provides Ms. Craig with monthly updates and less frequently she updates the

101 commissioners' usually at year end. It is a good idea to present directly to the board. Ms.  
102 McDougall explained the weighting of cases and how that works. Some get early offers  
103 or omnibus offers which reduces the case numbers and reduces the hours attorneys  
104 spend on the cases. The numbers overall have reduced with some various excesses  
105 with trauancies.

106  
107 She discussed the various reasons why decreased caseloads are happening. It may  
108 affect jury funding and we may see higher jury costs due to trials going to jury.

109  
110 What also has potentially contributed to reduction in numbers may have been because  
111 of the use of drug court, but it is not known if that relates to other program resolutions as  
112 well. The stats will be known closer to the end of the year. She explained what is  
113 happening in the courts that contribute to lower numbers. She is separating the  
114 probation violations from court as well as the failures to comply, and calculating those  
115 separately for tracking purposes. It looks viable to weight those but would draft a  
116 proposal if those change. They may present a recommendation to keep the District  
117 Court weighted. Good results are good, but budget costs will need to be considered for  
118 other areas impacted.

119  
120 There are three murder cases set in December. Ms. McDougall explained preparations  
121 for those cases and she believes those cases will go through. Going forward she will  
122 continue to track alternative programs since it is good information for future programs  
123 and finding funding for them. Commissioner DeTro asked if anyone is keeping up on the  
124 Legislative Agenda for this year's session because the Marijuana counties have been  
125 saying it will cost to defend those cases. Ms. McDougall said she does have some  
126 attorney contacts keeping her up on bills to be presented. Commissioner Branch asked  
127 for a white paper he can bring with him during legislative session that outlines the  
128 particular points. He asked about the eastern state evaluations, we do not have to pay.  
129 We are part of the Spokane BHO and they were paying \$12,000 per day going over their  
130 limits, so we must not be getting close to the allocation for our situations. Ms. McDougall  
131 explained the process and when a particular situation warrants Eastern State's  
132 involvement. The county does not pay for costs associated with Eastern State. We do  
133 pay for ballistics, and special investigative costs. Commissioner Branch stated there  
134 have been conversations in Wenatchee about the number of mental health beds to  
135 provide.

136  
137 Ms. McDougall thanked the board for their time and stated she would put together the  
138 annual report and submit that sometime at the end of December beginning of January.

139  
140 **Budget Work Session – Superior Court Clerk**  
141 Cari Hall, Treasurer Leah McCormack, Charlene Groomes and Susan Speiker were  
142 present.

143  
144 The Clerk's budget was reviewed. The various expense lines and amounts were  
145 discussed. The revenue lines were reviewed and adjustments made. The Clerks LFO's  
146 were discussed. When the contract was first approved for LFO, the collector took on  
147 those accounts that would derive a payment, but now it doesn't seem like much is being  
148 collected. Many large restitutions will never be paid off. The Clerk thanked the board for  
149 their time and exited.

150

151 The group further discussed the 2019 budget revenue and expenses. Ms. Hall discussed  
152 the October tax revenue posting that will help with the estimate going into the New Year.  
153 Commissioner Hover said he cut a bunch of lines in maintenance that are associated  
154 with the Fairgrounds. He stated he would discuss those cuts at the maintenance budget  
155 work session.

156  
157 The Auditor's budget was discussed and the anticipated 2019 changes due to staff  
158 retirements and necessary training in the department.

159  
160 Commissioners' discussed the health insurance costs stating the county only has a finite  
161 amount of money to work with and if insurance costs go up and union employees not  
162 considering affordable options it could mean that the only way to afford the cost would  
163 be to cut employees. It could look like 2008 all over again. The Ad Valorem millage  
164 monies were discussed and the amounts allocated to Veterans fund.

165  
166 **Update – Planning – Perry Huston**  
167 Angie Hubbard, Dan Higbee, Dave Hilton, Char Schumacher

168  
169 Members of the public Emily Sisson audio and video recording the meeting and Lorah  
170 Super taking notes.

171  
172 *WRIA 48*

173 Director Huston discussed the areas that received reevaluations within WRIA 48. He  
174 discussed the Beaver Creek, Thompson Creek and Wolf Creek areas and showed them  
175 on the map. He said Patterson Lake area was not evaluated but it is determined to be  
176 outside the restricted area.

177  
178 How much of the Planning Dept. Staff should dedicate time to doing Ecology's job?

179  
180 Historically tanks and cisterns are not acceptable forms of residential water supply and  
181 are not considered in terms of showing water adequacy, stated David Hilton.  
182 Commissioner Branch asked if there was a base volume of water needed to establish.  
183 Since those were not considered for anything other than recreational use, no, but the  
184 projection of water use would be around 360 gallons per day.

185  
186 Director Huston explained the multiple year process. The commissioners' read from the  
187 rules the definitions in the Glossary of the instream flow rules. The approach was  
188 discussed. Outside the areas we can assume Ecology is not going to say hydraulic  
189 continuity out except for a modest distance and either side of the stem. Commissioner  
190 Branch would like to see a reference map. Director Huston said he would try then  
191 discussed why it might be challenging.

192  
193 Some members of the watershed council told Commissioner Hover that they would help  
194 solicit memberships. It would be good to know when the community meetings get  
195 scheduled so commissioners' can learn what is being discussed.

196  
197 David Hilton recommended the Commissioners' take this up with the Board of Health.  
198 Dan Higbee said it is really the county's decision but the County relies on Public Health  
199 to provide information that either supports or doesn't support the system. He then  
200 informed the commissioners' when he would be on vacation.

201

202 *Cannabis Regulation –Update*

203 Director Huston stated one thing is that some members wanted him to create a staff  
204 report to include bright parameters for them to follow. He wanted to ensure they  
205 understood in what capacity their recommendation would be viewed. Some of the  
206 industries look at this as a negotiation tactic with the Planning Commission. He doesn't  
207 want it to appear the commissioners' and Planning Commission are in negotiations with  
208 the growers. He believes summarizing this process may be helpful up front in mitigating  
209 the work product later on where the result may look different from what it started out as.

210

211 *Planning Dept. Staffing Update*

212 Fourteen applications were received for the Administrative Secretary position within the  
213 Planning Dept. Commissioners' expressed some concern about the position being the  
214 first contact people have with the department. If all the planners are covering the  
215 secretary position then we are paying more for that work to be done rather than having  
216 someone on staff dealing only with the front desk. Sharing the front desk person was  
217 discussed. He will move ahead as planned.

218

219 *Comprehensive Plan Review*

220 Director Huston stated he sent the board the draft he is working on for the SEPA  
221 environmental checklist. He is trying to identify the things that will be significant issues,  
222 and where policies do not already cover. He discussed one thing he wanted to make  
223 sure everyone is on same page for, the comment revolves around unconsolidated  
224 aquifers, permeable soils for on-site sewer systems. There was a study of Laura Straus  
225 that Ms. Super mentioned. He believes some level of analysis be done to find the  
226 correlation between our current situation and see if there is any instances of  
227 contaminants. Commissioners' made some suggestions around the proposed goals for  
228 aquifer recharge. A model should be created to demonstrate what the goals and  
229 timelines for accomplishing the tasks are. Make sure we have had a reasonable  
230 conversation about the decision.

231

232 **Budget Work Session – Fairgrounds/Fair**

233 Stella Columbia, Laurie Thomas, Treasurer Leah McCormack and Cari Hall were  
234 present.

235

236 The fairgrounds budget was reviewed. There are many Stampede attendees that rent  
237 RV spaces at the fairgrounds. Commissioner Hover asked where the job description  
238 came from for the Clerk III noted in the budget. The Clerk of the Board replied her  
239 assistant used to work 1/3 time as the Fairgrounds Clerk and she thought the label was  
240 from that time. The work to be performed did not seem like Clerk III level work. Treasurer  
241 McCormack stated the previous clerk was depositing funds, balancing the deposits, but  
242 a Clerk III responsibility is warranted if deposits are balanced which actually needs two  
243 people to handle. Stella would be the second set of eyes and would bring the deposit to  
244 Treasurer. Auditor Thomas explained why positions might be classed higher to allow  
245 some higher level work to be done on occasion, it provides more flexibility to the  
246 department.

247 Fair rental of the fairgrounds was discussed and what the rental rate of \$45,000 would  
248 include. Commissioner Hover stated when the analysis was done under the previous  
249 manager the \$45,000 included staff support whatever that is. Commissioner Branch  
250 would like to memorialize the details. The scope of work would detail what is provided for  
251 the rental fee, and what would also be used for anyone else who rents the whole  
252 grounds is charged a uniform price that includes certain things.

253 Commissioner Branch stated the new resolution recitals should refer to the Fair rate as it  
254 is based on the operation of the actual fair and another renter may not utilize the same  
255 things as the Fair would.

256

257 Auditor Thomas stated in lieu of a contract the invoice would summarize rate invoice  
258 would need to detail everything the rental rate includes

259

260 **Motion 2018 Fair Rental Invoice Preparation and Payment**

261 Commissioner Branch directed Stella Columbia to draft the Fair 2018 Fair rental invoice  
262 in the amount of \$45,000 and process the bill to the auditor for payment. Motion was  
263 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

264

265

266 The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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