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**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**OKANOGAN COUNTY**

**OCTOBER 25, 2022**

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**9:00 AM** Review Meeting Minutes October 10, 11, 17 & 18, 2022  
**9:15 AM** Public Comment Period  
**9:30 AM** State Auditor Meeting – Award Letter Financial Reporting  
**10:00 AM** Presentation .09 Prioritization Infrastructure – Economic Alliance – Ms. Diefenbach  
**11:00 AM** Update – Public Works- Engineer Thomson  
**1:30 PM** Commissioners to set Wednesday’s Agenda  
**1:35 PM** Budget Work Session – Fairgrounds/Fair – Naomie Peasley  
**3:00 PM** Budget Work Session – Veterans Office – Tom Even  
**3:30 PM** Budget Work Session – Superior Court – Dennis Ravidou  
**4:00 PM** Budget Work Session – Civil Service/HR/Risk Management – Ms. Keitzman  
**4:30 PM** Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Fund 172  
**5:00 PM** Approve Commissioner Proceedings October 10, 11, 17 & 18, 2022  
**5:05 PM** Approve Consent Agenda

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The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a Public Meeting at 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on October 25, 2002 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 October 10, 11, 17 & 18, 2022**

Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes.

**Motion Letter of Recommendation-Jim Wright**

Commissioner Branch moved to direct the Clerk of the Board to draft a letter of recommendation for Jim Wright as he is applying for a position on the State Board of Health. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

**Public Comment Period**

Member of the public, Ruth Hall had no comment. There will be no quorum of the board November 1, 2022.

**State Auditor Meeting – Award Letter Financial Reporting**

Washington State Auditor, Pat McCarthy, introduced the state’s team that has worked with Okanogan County each year. She said the Auditor’ Office doesn’t give these types of awards out often, so this is really special. Out of 39 counties, they have only given awards to six in the last 15-years. The award recognized the combined efforts Okanogan County has taken in its commitment to making government work better. The award particularly recognized Auditor Cari Hall, Treasurer Leah McCormack and Deputy Treasurer Pam Johnson for their diligent work to ensure the County’s financial reports are compliant and accountable. There are many who do good work and show good stewardship of county dollars.

51 The County Auditor, Treasurer the county team was recognized in making government work  
52 better and providing adequate financial reporting. Presentations were made. Pam Johnson  
53 thanked the State Auditor stating it was is a collaborative effort by the county.  
54

55 **Approve Commissioner Proceedings October 10, 11, 17 & 18, 2022**

56 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the commissioners' proceedings of October 10, 11, 17,  
57 & 18, 2022. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.  
58

59 **Approve Consent Agenda**

60 Commissioner DeTro moved to approved the consent agenda items 1-8 as presented. Motion  
61 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

- 62 1. **Agreement Amendment #1 – Sheriff’s Equip. & Coroner’s Building – Beaman Architecture**
- 63 2. **CDBG PS CV-1 Grant 20-6221C-119 – Request #21 - Dept. of Commerce**
- 64 3. **Purchase Award – Water Truck – Mobile Fleet Service – Public Works**
- 65 4. **Purchase Award – Rolloff Truck – Mobile Fleet Service – Public Works**
- 66 5. **Plans, Provisions & Specs. – Central Landfill – Public Works**
- 67 6. **Plans, Provisions & Specs. – 2023 County Wide Guardrail – Public Works**
- 68 7. **Approve – 20-Year Master Plan Pre-Design – Beaman Architecture**
- 69 8. **Resolution 151-2022 – Creating Fund 172 – LATC**

70  
71 **Presentation .09 Prioritization Infrastructure – Economic Alliance – Ms. Diefenbach**

72 Ms. Diefenbach discussed the Infrastructure Committee final prioritized list of 2023 Public  
73 Infrastructure Project Prioritization list. The Omak reservoir project was ranked #1.  
74

75 Commissioner Hover stated the county dedicated ARPA \$100,000 to Winthrop Waterline.  
76 Commissioner Hover stated the budget for Infrastructure fund with 2023 being the last year the  
77 bond payment is required. Current year and next year payments are saved for bond payments.  
78

79 Long term financing agreement between Okanogan County and City of Omak regarding the  
80 commitment to paying off the Omak Stampede bond that they would not access the fund until  
81 their bond is paid in full. Omak could potentially pay off the bond in order to be able to access the  
82 funds sooner.  
83

84 The group discussed use of the funds on an annual basis for projects the committee recommends.  
85 Commissioner Hover said getting together with the cities to figure out the process to be able to  
86 fund projects on an annual basis. Commissioner Branch made a point that the bonding is assigned  
87 by several to maintain the fund so it wasn't wiped out. Pay attention to the legislative side of things  
88 could also affect our future. The .09 fund was extended out until about 2032. We were one of the  
89 few extended.  
90

91 The committee did not vote to use Infrastructure fund because the county has a moratorium. Ms.  
92 Holder Diefenbach will work with the Clerk to schedule a discussion, round table style, between  
93 the county and the cities regarding the fund. Commissioner Branch stated the Council of  
94 Government (COG) should be included as it is the mechanism created for this very type of  
95 discussion. COG works effectively in other counties, it is a forum that could be used to work  
96 things out because it is broad issue topic. Build on the relationship to be a valid organization to  
97 deal with these issues. Commissioner Hover said the cities have to figure out (through ranking  
98 process) how to use its 40%, he proposed less allocation to the county. The process to get there  
99 includes all three commissioners and the city mayors and that seems to be most straightforward.  
100

101 Commissioner Hover would like both the county and the cities to apply to use the funds so  
102 everyone goes through the same process so the funds can be used. He would like to see more  
103 money go to the cities. Commissioner Branch reminded everyone that he has been involved with  
104 the Infrastructure committee for many years.

105  
106 Ms. Holder Diefenbach discussed how the commissioners would like her to address this once  
107 everyone is at the table. She will identify the spending caps once she discusses the Treasurer's  
108 funding needs of the county.

#### 109 **Motion Resolution Preparation**

110 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the prioritized list as presented to be later adopted by  
111 the board via resolution. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

112  
113  
114 The Job Career Expo is happening tomorrow at the Agriplex from 8:30 – 12:00 to expose students  
115 to a variety of career information.

116  
117 **Update – Public Works- Engineer Thomson**  
118 Engineer Thomson provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there.

119  
120 *Maintenance & Road Conditions*  
121 Waiting for rain to be able to grade.

122  
123 *Salmon Creek Rd Drainage Project*  
124

125 *Ellisforde Monitoring Well Decommissioning*  
126 Monitoring the well going out to bid soon.

127  
128 *Bridge Inspections*  
129 Will be placing load restrictions on Bally Hill Rd at Beaver Creek.

130  
131 *Open Positions*  
132 Office manager is moving out of state. One application for the Capital Projects Manager position  
133 with trails and OCOG position is still open. Discussed the non-represented employees are  
134 covered by the basic, but is an issue. He is looking into whether or not non-bargaining employees  
135 can join the same insurance as offered to union employees. Commissioner Hover isn't sure if un  
136 represented offices can join insurance provided to represented employees. Commissioner Hover  
137 said he wants cheaper insurance for everyone, and having choices is good.

138  
139 *Conconully USACE Project*  
140 Keith Rudy, USACE, Daryl Downing, USACE, and Emergency Management Maurice Goodall  
141 Mr. Rudy explained the work being done in Conconully to prevent future flooding. The goal is to  
142 work up the main channel, pull sediment out of the first bend. All contractor operators appear to  
143 be local. It has been good since many are familiar with the area and provide great intel and many  
144 are right there. Putting in boulder clusters to keep the water hydrology moving and will provide  
145 improved habitat. Mr. Downing explained they initially were aiding for one thing but then the flood  
146 happened. A recommendation to develop a project information report to see if the investment is  
147 worth saving, and provided outreach. Ultimately approval with funding was authorized including  
148 authorization for emergency contracting and construction and by October 15 they started moving  
149 dirt.

150  
151 Commissioners were invited to see all the work being done in the town of Conconully.

152 Commissioners recessed until 1:30 p.m.

153

154 **Commissioners to set Wednesday's Agenda**

155 No meetings were scheduled.

156

157 **Budget Work Session – Fairgrounds/Fair – Naomie Peasley**

158 Naomie Peasley, Member of the public Ms. Harris, Brock Hires FAC Chair

159

160 Commissioner Hover stated the FAC recently met and he went over the budget with the  
161 committee. The 2023 Fair budget, as presented by Commissioner Hover, was reviewed and  
162 discussed. Pari-mutuel Tax revenue should be Dept of Ag, it is not called Pari mutual. Adjustments  
163 were suggested to adjust expected revenue and expenditures. The people who put on the races  
164 and games raised over \$14,000 in donations. Budget to purchase new rabbit cages as discussed  
165 with Commissioner Hover. Ms. Peasley said the cages are only used during fair. The Poultry barn  
166 also need new cages. Commissioner Hover said fairgrounds can pay for them and the lumber at  
167 about \$15,000 including whatever donations have been given. The cages would be considered a  
168 fairgrounds asset, said Auditor Hall. The Quonset hut floors were also requested to be repaired.

169

170 The group reviewed the Fairgrounds budget. Commissioner Hover asked if the BOCC wanted to  
171 authorize a full time Clerk for the fairgrounds due to the amount of activities going on right now.  
172 She is having a hard time paying the bills on time and working with the public all the time. Auditor  
173 Hall stated her data reflected the position to be part-time all year long, not full time all year long.  
174 Commissioner Hover explained the transformer should be replaced because there isn't enough  
175 power to run the bathrooms or a large event. Conservation District is providing trees, at no cost  
176 to the county, to plant in the RV park. LTAC awarded \$20,000 towards the costs for the bathrooms  
177 to be remodeled.

178

179 The commissioners went through the Fairground's manager wish list which amounted to  
180 \$1,776,800. Listed were things like covered arena, sound system, well, cover for grandstands,  
181 covered stage, racehorse barns, CDL license for "Norm" to drive the water truck, an event tent, a  
182 new pickup truck, a scissor lift, etc..... (attached)

183

184 **Budget Work Session – Veterans Office – Tom Even**

185 The Veterans 2023 budget was reviewed. Mr. Even asked for budget for a cell phone.  
186 Commissioners suggested straight talk as an economical option.

187

188 **Budget Work Session – Superior Court – Dennis Rabidou**

189 Judge Rawson, Judge Grim, Dennis Rabidou, Commissioner Robert Colbert

190

191 The Juvenile budget was revisited as Mr. Rabidou said he did not have the pertinent information  
192 needed to discuss the reason he is here today. He said he was notified by the prosecutor they  
193 would no longer be able to approve people. He was again notified in Sept the prosecutor was not  
194 able to fill that. They responded that they would no longer participate so now the Juvenile has to.

195

196 Commissioner Colbert handles most of the Juvenile calendars. The Prosecutor's office helped  
197 facilitate. It made his job easier with someone in the role. When prosecutor would not fill that role,  
198 the juvenile department has had to. Michael Beaver has stepped up. He knows many of the  
199 children through his work in the Juvenile detention. He works with school districts on trancies.  
200 Commissioner Colbert stated Mr. Beaver has been such a great help. It would be very difficult to  
201 run the court without this role. The request is to reclassify the Probation manager position to grade  
202 36 step 3 keeping the individual in the position. The budget impact is \$3,336.

203 **Motion Juvenile Dept Probation Manager Position Reclassification Request**

204 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the request to reclassify the Probation Manager to a  
205 grade 36 step three. Motion was seconded, Commissioner Hover does not discount what the  
206 need is, but if every single department has the same ask without a salary survey or comparison  
207 for the reclassification. He has nothing to base his decision on other than what the judges are  
208 saying that they want to pay more. Commissioner Branch said it would cost more to hire someone  
209 from outside to do the work. Commissioner Hover cannot vote on this until he sees comparison  
210 data and responsibilities that supports the reclassification.

211  
212 Judge Rawson said the prosecutor took a trained professional and put them in that role, and now  
213 the duties were dropped on the Juvenile office to make sure everything is provided to the courts.  
214 We have someone who is skilled and able to take on this additional role to make sure the truancies  
215 are taken care of. All commissioner Hover is asking for is information like how many hours is the  
216 person in the court and what others in the role are being paid. Commissioner DeTro said the cost  
217 pales compared to having to replace someone to take on both sets of responsibilities.  
218 Commissioner DeTro and Commissioner Branch voted Yes, and Commissioner Hover voted No  
219 motion carried.

220  
221 **Budget Work Session – Civil Service/HR/Risk Management –Ms. Keitzman**  
222 The HR, Risk Manager and Civil Service revenue and expenditure budgets were reviewed and  
223 discussed. Miscellaneous budgets were reviewed the HR is responsible for.

224  
225 The Commissioners budget was reviewed.

226  
227 **Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Fund 172**  
228 Commissioner Hover opened up the hearing to staff, seeing no staff he opened up the hearing  
229 for public comment, seeing no public to comment, he closed public comment and opened up to  
230 commissioners’ discussion. Commissioner Branch stated the supplemental was to allocate the  
231 Local Assistance Tribal funds separate from the current expense funds.

232  
233 **Motion Resolution 153-2022 Budget Supplemental Appropriation Fund 172**  
234 Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 153-2022 a budget supplemental  
235 appropriation within fund 172 in the amount of \$6,000,000. Motion was seconded, all were in  
236 favor, motion carried.

237  
238 The public hearing was closed.

239  
240 **Discussion ARPA funding Request**  
241 Lauri Jones, Jill Gardner  
242  
243 Ms. Jones asked if a working group was needed for the ARPA funds designated for Public Health.  
244 Commissioner Hover said a letter of intent would be the next step. The Clerk said she can draft  
245 the letter in the amount of \$1,000,000 for general public health services.

246  
247 Auditor Hall said these are federal dollars and she thinks the more documentation the better. The  
248 group discussed the funds must be spent by December 31, 2026. Ms. Jones asked if they are  
249 required to spend \$250,000 annually or can it carry over? Commissioner Hover said it could carry  
250 over as long as it is spent by December 26, 2026.

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254 **Motion Letter of Intent County ARPA Funding-Public Health**  
255 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the letter of intent to provide county ARPA Funds to the  
256 Okanogan County Public Health for general public health services in the amount of \$1,000,000.  
257 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

258  
259 **Motion Letter of Intent County ARPA Funding-City of Okanogan**  
260 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the letter of intent to provide county ARPA Funds to the  
261 City of Okanogan for their Okanogan Surface to Ground Project in the amount of \$435,000. Motion  
262 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

263  
264 **Motion Letter of Intent County ARPA Funding-Community Action Council**  
265 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the letter of intent to provide county ARPA Funds to  
266 Okanogan County Community Action Council for food bank cooler, freezer, and generator  
267 purchase in the amount of \$250,000. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

268  
269 **Motion Letter of Recommendation State Board of Health– Jim Wright**  
270 Commissioner Branch moved to approve a letter of recommendation in support of Jim Wright's  
271 appointment to the State Board of Health. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

272  
273 **Motion Letter of Support PUD ReConnect Grant**  
274 Commissioner Branch moved to approve a letter of support to the Okanogan County PUD, John  
275 MacDonald supporting their USDA ReConnect Grant Application. Motion was seconded, all were  
276 in favor, motion carried.

277  
278 **Motion Resolution 156-2022 Declaring Mahindra Tractor Surplus and Trade-in**  
279 Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 156-2022 declaring the fairgrounds Mahindra  
280 tractor surplus and allowing it as a trade-in towards the purchase of a new John Deere tractor.  
281 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

282  
283 The board adjourned at 5:13 p.m.  
284