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**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**OKANOGAN COUNTY**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2023**

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**9:00 AM** Review Meeting Minutes September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**9:15 AM** Public Comment Period  
**9:20 AM** Discussion-2024 Title III Funds  
**10:00 AM** Discussion-City of Nespalem Slope Stabilization Project Funding Gap-Morgan Allen  
**10:30 AM** Update-County Auditor-Cari Hall  
**11:00 AM** Continued Public Hearing-Road Vacation within the Plat of Monse-Jo Ann Stansbury, Josh Thomson  
**11:15 AM** Update-Public Works Engineer-Josh Thomson  
**To Follow** Approve Commissioners Proceedings September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**To Follow** Approve Consent Agenda

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The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on September 12, 2023 with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

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

**Review Meeting Minutes September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Commissioner Branch stated there are some items to discuss and so the board will come back after the public health meeting this afternoon. Commissioner Hover stated the \$250,000 ag grant funds were spent last year and we received the reimbursement this year. The lights were the only thing left to buy. Some of the ecology blocks were also purchased this year. The Cap Improvement fund may be alright for now.

**Public Comment Period**

Joanne Dagnon member of the public was present and commented about the fair. She thanked the board for expanding the senior parking and helps with senior participation. On the bleachers, they need handrails as this is a real safety issue. Seniors have a difficult time with the bleachers and need assistance. She said there is a liability issue and a safety issue. These need to be ADA compliant and they need lighting, it is dark, three able men had to help. Commissioners asked which bleachers, the ones south of the bleacher. There is no handrail at all. Where the bleachers met there was a about a 12-inch gap, feet can go through or kids could drop through. She asked the three commissioners to go there and see what she is talking about.

Ruth Hall, member of the public via zoom, agreed with Ms. Dagnon's concern about the bleachers. Ms. Hall said she attended on Sunday. She said there was no cover over the bleachers and there used to be and now with no shade it was very hot. Commissioner Branch stated the board does intend to address the cover in the near future.

**Discussion-2024 Title III Funds**

Rick Balam, Mike Worden, Okanogan Sheriff's office, and Craig Nelson, Eli Loftis, and Kim?? From conservation district

52 Mr. Nelson stated they have been applying for the federal wildfire grant 10 million. He explained  
53 why the district did not get awarded. They are reapplying for the full amount. They have also  
54 applied for other funds and will know more next week if awarded the \$1.5 million. (CWR) (CWCG  
55 funds) Home hardening is what title III is used for. Mr. Balam said SAR target is \$21,900 to build  
56 back a team with equipment and supplies. Litters are \$6700 per, one is broken right now.  
57 Commissioner Hover discussed annual contracts in order to help manage the money better.

58  
59 Commissioner Hover asked if the county conservation district and SAR work together. Mr. Balam  
60 said SAR could use about \$15,000 in 2024. He read from the list of allowable expenses which  
61 included the purchase of 911 equipment. Community wildfire protection plan the District did put  
62 the CWPP update in their State Conservation District \$1.5 million grant and will know in a week  
63 or so if awarded. Mr. Worden explained there are avenues to gather the 911 costs for equipment  
64 used on the national forest. Commissioner Hover discussed replacement of equipment used for  
65 SAR. Fairchild Airforce base SEAR program may be able to assist with equipment they no longer  
66 need. Three categories, Firewise programs, Forest Fuels reduction under CWPP, and then there  
67 is SAR which are about 90% on forest. Mr. Nelson explained work Firewise work and fuel  
68 reductions on private property.

69  
70 **Discussion-City of Nespelem Slope Stabilization Project Funding Gap-Morgan Allen**  
71 Morgan Allan, Kelly Ross

72  
73 Kelley Ross is the Nespelem Certified Water Operator and does all the water and sewer testing  
74 and informs maintenance crew of requirements.

75  
76 Ms. Ross explained hillside vegetation above Nespelem water tank burned where the water tank  
77 is situation and now the hillside is sloughing. A retaining wall is bowed out and with winter and  
78 spring the hillside is now really compromised. The PWB gave \$750,000 for planning to get rid of  
79 the hillside above the tanks. If tanks come down the water would come down on the town. Century  
80 west is their engineer. Three bids were received with lowest 1.2 million. In 2021 the award would  
81 have been enough, but due to costs going up since then they have a gap. The geo techs reported  
82 to the town on what could be done to resolve the issue but was a huge cost. Nespelem gets left  
83 out of the tribal funding for things since it is a city just like any other city. The city meets all the  
84 federal requirements for grant funding and can spend the money to be reimbursed.

85  
86 They are short funds for the gap \$300,000 but if funds are allocated the contractor is ready to go  
87 and can do the work before winter. The award letter is not in hand but the award is in the meeting  
88 minutes. The Clerks are here to ask the county for county ARPA funds to fill the gap.

89  
90 The tribe has not gotten back to the town about any funding they can provide and it isn't expected  
91 since they have not been very helpful and seems to push things off on IHS. When the hillside  
92 burned they tried to FEMA and could not qualify for those funds due to not enough damage done.  
93 The town is trying to prevent a disaster. Ms. Ross said she met with officials about receiving  
94 grants for the project but because nothing happened yet no funds were available. But if the hillside  
95 comes down there would be all sorts of funds available.

96  
97 Commissioner Hover stated if awarded this would be the last allocation from the funds since the  
98 county still needs to do some projects with the funds. He felt \$250,000 would be a safe amount  
99 to award to the city in order to avert a disaster.

100  
101  
102

103 **Motion Direct the Clerk of the Board to Draft a Resolution**

104 Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Clerk of the Board to draw up a resolution to allocate  
105 the \$250,000 of county ARPA funds for the Nespelem City water tank restoration project funding  
106 gap. Motion was seconded. Commissioner Branch moved to amend the previous motion amount  
107 from \$250,000 to \$276,000 in order to fully fund the city's gap in project funding. Motion was  
108 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

109  
110 Commissioner Hover stated the Board put a hold on anymore ARPA allocations until the county  
111 figures out its needs.

112  
113 Commissioner Hover discussed Lower Goat Creek bridge repairs and the allocation of \$85,000  
114 of county ARPA and what requirements that entails. It creates a hardship to try and meet the  
115 federal guidelines for use of the funds. It may be better to use Current Expense dollars for the  
116 project instead of ARPA. The county could transfer funds from Contingency Reserve to Parks &  
117 Rec fund 125 to pay the project costs from. Commissioners discussed county ARPA funded  
118 projects.

119  
120 **Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g)**

121 Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes under RCW 42.30.110  
122 (1)(g) until 10:56 a.m. to discuss the review the performance of a public employee. Motion  
123 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

124  
125 **CANCELLED Update-County Auditor-Cari Hall**

126  
127 **Continued Public Hearing-Road Vacation within the Plat of Monse-Jo Ann Stansbury, Josh**  
128 **Thomson**

129  
130 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing for the proposed road vacation within the Plat of  
131 Monse.

132  
133 Ms. Stansbury explained the hearing was continued from August 22, 2023 boundary line exhibit  
134 map presented for the Van Doren Ranch. The first boundary line adjustment was discussed. We  
135 are missing the black line from the original exhibit. Mr. Hammons is still interested in half of second  
136 street. She explained which land owner would get in square footed based on the original proposal  
137 measured by Erlandsen. She explained the process and what would be needed before recording.

138  
139 Commissioner Branch opened up for testimony. Attorney David Kazinda? of Van Doren provided  
140 further information. The Furtado's and van Doren's have resolved the building with the red roof  
141 and parties have signed. Other matters regarding the Hammons was discussed. The Hammons  
142 is outside the depictions shown in the presentation. The other matter quasi-judicial matter and  
143 vested with commissioners to make the decisions. The van Doren's paid the fees and step  
144 completed for the matter, they believe since the Hammons are not part of the vacation they would  
145 not be affected by this matter and commissioners are free to grant the petition for vacation.

146  
147 Commissioner Branch asked for clarification that the commissioners have the authority to make  
148 their decision on this matter.

149  
150 Commissioner Branch closed the testimony portion of the discussion and opened up to the  
151 commissioners.

152  
153

154 **Motion Road Vacation within the Plat of Monse**  
155 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the vacation of the Plat of Monse as shown on the version  
156 1 map. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried. Final order will be generated once  
157 all final costs are paid and boundary line adjustment is completed.

158  
159 **Update-Public Works Engineer-Josh Thomson**  
160 Engineer Thomson provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there.

161  
162 *Road & Maintenance Condition*  
163 Waiting for rain for grading county roads.

164  
165 *Mazama Bridge Property Purchase w/ Methow Conservancy*  
166 RCO funds clarifications on Mazama Bridge property purchase. Funds will not go through the  
167 county and it was thought the money would be wired to an escrow account, but now there is a  
168 different process. Who is going to sign the property purchase and sale agreement. The chairman  
169 typically signs the documents. Engineer Thomson explained the different documents needed.  
170 Commissioner Hover said we need to do something on the title to restrict it and note why the  
171 county owns the property so the recorded document explains and memorializes it to the title.  
172 Proclamation stating how the purchase came about that the board signs into the record. Engineer  
173 Thomson will come up with that.

174  
175 *WATV Requested Routes*  
176 Engineer Thomson explained some work due to request to map out Cub Creek Road. The request  
177 was shown on Zoom with the roads requested to be mapped. (attached) He discussed from mile  
178 post to mile post portions of the roads requested to be opened for WATV uses.

179  
180 Commissioner Hover stated Ferry County has dual speed roads and he talked with folks about  
181 where the variable speed roads are located. He said RCW allows us to set speeds based on  
182 conditions. He thinks we need to build a map to submit to forest service DNR and F&W for  
183 comment about what the county is thinking. Two roads are migration routes and the board would  
184 like Gunn Ranch Road and Rendezvous Road left out. There are other routes that provide through  
185 traffic. Many of the roads are wash boarded and why people ride side by sides instead of trucks.  
186 Engineer Thomson stated Gunn Ranch Road did not connect to anything whereas the other roads  
187 did. Public Works does not recommend Gunn Ranch Road to be opened. He showed the map of  
188 the requested roads and discussed the current speed limits of them.

189  
190 Send map to the Clerk of the Board who will disburse to whoever the proposal was sent to before  
191 i.e. DNR, Forest Service local ranger Chris Furr, WDFW Brock and tell them the county is thinking  
192 about opening up the roads to WATV. Leave the proposed map in tact and see what comments  
193 come back. A public hearing will be held if the county considers these roads for WATV uses.  
194 Commissioner Hover said the public hearing would reduce speed limits contingent to opening  
195 them up for WATV uses. Engineer Thomson stated his interpretation of primitive road laws are  
196 that unpaved and none highway roads are not closed and statute allows WATV use on those, but  
197 it is illegal for WATV's to ride on highway roads that are paved. He hasn't gotten feedback that  
198 his interpretation is not correct. The rules have a process for closing those roads but not one to  
199 open primitive roads. Portions of Gunn Ranch and Rendezvous roads are primitive.

200  
201 Commissioner Branch shared with the engineer the issue the slope issue of the city of Nespelem's  
202 water tower with the slope sloughing off.

203  
204 Commissioners adjourned for lunch at 11:43 a.m. to return at 3:00 p.m.

205 The clerk of the board presented quotes from Abel Torres with Zaga Commercial Roofing for the  
206 courthouse Annex roof (\$35,045.50) and courthouse elevator shaft roof (\$3,092.25) projects. Mr.  
207 Meadows had reached out to several vendors for quotes but received only one from Abel Torres.  
208 (attached) Commissioner Hover provided a draft template contract to be used for small public  
209 works projects that he and Esther Milner worked on. Commissioner Branch clarified that prevailing  
210 wage rules applied.

211

212 **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g)**

213 Commissioner Neal moved to go into executive session at 3:27 p.m. until 3:52 p.m. inviting HR  
214 Director Shelley Keitzman to discuss RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g). Motion was seconded, all were in  
215 favor, motion carried. Commissioners exited at 3:52 pm

216

217 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

218 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those  
219 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a  
220 list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to  
221 approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$938,710.53. Warrant numbers as cited on the  
222 attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

223

224 **Approve Commissioners Proceedings September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

225 Commissioner Neal moved to approve the commissioners' proceedings of September 5, 2023.  
226 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

227

228 **Approve Consent Agenda**

229 Commissioner Neal moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-6, as presented. Motion was  
230 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

231

- 232 1. ARPA Request #9-Equipment -\$345.75-Okanogan County Sherriff's Office
- 233 2. Proposal to Provide Architectural Services- Courthouse Restoration and  
234 Rehabilitation
- 235 3. Memorandum of Agreement-Parking Space Usage-Community Action Council
- 236 4. Contract #43-Okanogan County Fair Janitorial/Pre-clean Services-Amanda Yaksic
- 237 5. Contract #22-Okanogan County Fair Poultry Barn Judge-John Bryant
- 238 6. Award Recommendation-2023 Fire Guardrail Repair Project-Frank Gurney

239

240 **Motion Tonasket EMS District**

241 Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Tonasket EMS  
242 District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

243

244 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Tonasket EMS  
245 District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$16,200 to Life Line for August Services. Motion was  
246 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

247

248 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Tonasket EMS District and Reconvene as the  
249 Methow EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

250

251 **Motion Methow Valley EMS District**

252 Commissioner Neal moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Methow Valley  
253 EMS District September vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$63,499.66. Motion was seconded,  
254 all were in favor, motion carried.

255

256 Commissioner Neal moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS District and Reconvene as the  
257 Oroville Rural EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

258

259 **Motion Oroville Rural EMS District**

260 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Oroville Rural  
261 EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$9,680. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,  
262 motion carried.

263

264 The Clerk of the Board sent the revised contract to Wayne Walker but it has not yet been sent to  
265 her for signature. It had the indemnification language added.

266

267 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Oroville Rural EMS District and Reconvene as the  
268 BOCC. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

269

270 **Motion**

271 Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Clerk of the Board to prepare a contract for Abel Torres  
272 to reroof elevator shaft and courthouse annex roof project. Motion was seconded, all were in  
273 favor, motion carried. Prevailing wage must be required.

274

275 **Motion VISA Late Charge**

276 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the payment of the late fee and interest fee on  
277 Commissioner Branch's credit card in the amount of \$37.17 from the commissioners' budget.  
278 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

279

280 **Motion**

281 Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Clerk of the Board to change language in the draft  
282 resolution 120-2023 that contracts above \$5000 be reviewed first by Board of County  
283 Commissioners. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

284

285 **Motion resolution 121-2023 Stipend**

286 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 121-2023 granting a stipend in the amount of  
287 \$1,111 to Kathleen Descoteaux for youth program grant administration. Motion was seconded, all  
288 were in favor, motion carried.

289

290 **Motion**

291 Commissioner Neal moved to approve the MOU between Community Action Council and  
292 Okanogan County for parking their two box trucks and pick up truck on Virginia Grainger parking  
293 lot. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

294

295 **Motion**

296 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Fair contract between Kelly Bowcutt Gold Buckle  
297 Rodeo Company for rodeo stock in the amount of \$10,500. Commissioner Hover moved to amend  
298 the main motion to include ten weekend passes. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion  
299 carried.

300

301 **Motion**

302 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Fair poultry Judge contract between John Bryant and  
303 Okanogan County in the amount of \$250 and 1 weekend pass. Motion was seconded, all were in  
304 favor, motion carried.

305

306

307 **Motion**  
308 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the contract between Liberty Linklater and Okanogan  
309 County for main stage entertainment in the amount of \$800 and two weekend passes. Motion was  
310 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.  
311  
312 The board adjourned at 4:40 p.m.  
313