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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

8:15 AM Update-Superior Court/Juvenile-Dennis Rabidou

9:00 AM Commissioners' Staff Meeting

10:00 AM **Discussion-Pest Control Assessment Resolution 67-2021 Amendment-Larry Gilman

10:30 AM Discussion-Noxious Weed Staffing Request-Larry Hudson

****Update Auditor-Cari Hall**

11:00 AM Update Public Works- Engineer- Josh Thomson

1:30 PM Board of Health Meeting

3:00 PM Approve Commissioners Proceedings September 7, 2021

3:10 PM Approve Consent Agenda

1. CDBG Public Services Grant Request #2 No.20-62210-011

2. CDBG Public Services Grant CV-1 Request #8 No. 20-6221C-119

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on September 14, 2021, with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, Commissioner Jim DeTro and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

AV Capture provided audio and video of the meetings held today, while ZOOM provided best audio accessibility and public interaction.

Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover was absent today, but will return Sept. 20, 2021.

Update-Superior Court/Juvenile-Judge Chris Culp, Dennis Rabidou

Judge Culp said this project is no further along than it was last year. Commissioner Branch discussed a letter of commitment as a way to secure the forest service building. If the building is a lease/purchase arrangement then ARPA funds could pay for the lease while the county secured the purchase funding. Mr. Rabidou explained there is some urgency to secure the building because of big trial calendars already being set. The contract for use of the Agriplex will terminate soon and the courts would like time to set up the new building with the basics.

Judge Culp said there is another buyer so he would like the county to commit with earnest money and decide to close the deal within 90 days. Commissioners were in favor of moving forward with an earnest agreement and payment. Judge Culp thought the county's capital improvement fund would be the best place for the funds not fund 160.

Commissioner Branch invited David Gecas to discuss the purchase of the Forest Service building as it has become a more urgent matter with the seller. The county concluded it will purchase the building and therefore will move forward with an earnest agreement. The courts can operate without a CUP, but Juvenile Detention functions would trigger a conditional use permit.

46 **Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

47 Civil Deputy David Gecas, Planning Director Pete Palmer, Maintenance Joe Poulin, Fairgrounds
48 Naomie Peasley, Kyle Haugen

49
50 David Gecas said he drafted a needed amendment to resolution 443-2009 regarding French Cr Rd,
51 but Commissioner DeTro would like Commissioner Hover present for consideration.

52
53 David Gecas discussed different options to amend Chapter 2.88 of the county code to provide a fee
54 schedule for public records requests and provide consistency among the county offices. Liability
55 issues were discussed in terms of responding to public records requests and how onerous it is on
56 staff to gather the records.

57
58 Ms. Peasley said last minute contracts need to be signed for vendor fill ins for fair. The North well at
59 fairgrounds had issues during fair. Commissioner DeTro explained John Hubbard volunteered to fix
60 the north well to pull the pump and would donate his time for that repair and the county will hire out
61 for any other needed repairs. One of the pumps was shut down but the fairgrounds was not closed
62 during the water situation.

63
64 A regular FAC meeting was held last night and public feedback was received. Officer selections
65 happen next month as well as premium book changes, rules etc... By laws dictate how elections
66 happen.

67
68 Our fair was determined by the state to be one of the top three in the state. In livestock sales plus
69 add on money was about \$500,000. Ms. Peasley will move forward with the changes made to the
70 fair. Gates revenue was down and exhibitor numbers were down. The Arts and Crafts building had
71 many leaks even after repairs were done. It would have cost as much to replace as it cost to repair,
72 said Ms. Peasley.

73
74 Ms. Peasley said she applying for grants that are due October 1. She requested temporary office
75 staff become permanent since she cannot get to the phones, grants, and vouchers and deal with
76 everything else in the office by herself. Commissioner Branch said put it in the proposed budget for
77 commissioner consideration.

78
79 Joe Poulin explained Divco was the only vendor to provide a quote for the PW building HVAC. He
80 will wait a little longer. The Admin building HVAC project may get done by spring. Capital forecast
81 was provided from the Facility Dude program which shows maintenance schedule for equipment
82 and finishes. Priority list is being drafted to show projects to be funded for 2022. A statistical analysis
83 report of work orders received over the last six years was provided.

84
85 Director Palmer said their office is closed, and a door bell installed for customers due to the uptick
86 in COVID numbers and will take extra precautions.

87
88 Received Conconully agreement from the city which removes the planning staff.

89 Actual costs for staff and materials, looked at other county fee structures will be discussed next
90 week.

91

92 **Discussion-Pest Control Assessment Resolution 67-2021 Amendment-Assessor Gilman**

93 Treasurer McCormack

94

95 Assessor Gilman explained an amendment to resolution 67-2021 regarding the Pest Control
96 assessment was needed because the calculation rounds up the base fee in order to split the
97 payment. He recommended that the resolution be changed to an even amount to avoid the questions
98 and calls.

99

100 Treasurer McCormack said assessments should always be adopted as an even number because
101 the system calculates things in halves. The Clerk of the Board stated if the board considered an
102 amendment to increase the collection from \$1.61 to \$1.62 a public hearing would be required, if the
103 board considered an amendment to collect less than \$1.61 than a public hearing would likely not be
104 necessary.

105

106 Treasurer McCormack said the county's bond agent Jim Nelson asked how much current expense
107 money would be dedicated to the bond for the Forest Service building project and relayed that our
108 rating was -AA and it was a good rating. The question Is the bond backed by current expense tax
109 levied dollars, will need to be answered? Commissioner Branch relayed the county's decision to put
110 earnest money down on the property and David Gecas is working on the lease with the option to
111 purchase documents. What fund is going to be the annual obligated fund? A meeting with Jim Nelson
112 is scheduled for next week to discuss.

113

114 **Update Auditor-Cari Hall**

115 Commissioner Branch discussed the county's plan to purchase the Forest Service building and use
116 of ARPA funds for the lease portion then apply other funds to the purchase amount. The Clerk of the
117 Board thought ARPA funds have to be obligated by Dec 31, 2024 and they must be spent by Dec.
118 31, 2026. Any unspent funds must be returned.

119

120 As of today, 40% of the Auditor staff are out of the office due to COVID. She cannot lose another
121 person or she will need to appointment only. Auditor Hall explained she is requiring everyone to wear
122 a mask. She said if people become any more aggressive about having to wear a mask she will close
123 to appointment only in order to protect staff and the public. Commissioner Branch suggested a public
124 announcement text be generated to get the word out that wait times in the Auditor's office will be
125 longer than normal.

126

127 The Auditor discussed the process involved with converting to electronic filings and recordings and
128 what role the Treasurer and Assessor plays in the electronic conversions.

129

130 **Update Public Works- Engineer- Josh Thomson**

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

132 *Solid Waste-WSDA Steam Treatment Recertification*
133 Annual steam treatment recertification at the Twisp location is happening.

134
135 A fire happened directly below the land fill but it did not jump the road.

136
137 *Maintenance & Road Conditions*
138 Ross Canyon Rd repairs
139 Area 1 working on Ross Canyon repair with BST and will wrap up this week.
140 Most areas staff are cleaning culverts and grading the roads.

141
142 *Fires*
143 Engineer Thomson met with DNR and Forest Service to request assistance with road maintenance
144 after the fires. DNR told us it was our responsibility to maintain the county roads and will not help cut
145 trees or clean. We do not put restrictions on our roads during fires, but we do in other circumstances.
146 Forest Service has done some maintenance, but we were hoping to get help with the trees. Danger
147 trees are weakened by fire and they cannot help with those. Hazard trees are looked at differently
148 and are in camp grounds. North Fork Salmon creek leads to the snow park and the county plows
149 the road.

150
151 *Conconully Sewer System*
152 Engineer Thomson said there is a rumor to raise the lake levels of Conconully Lake. It is a concern
153 as it would affect the sewer systems. He will find out to confirm.

154
155 *Liberty Woodlands Sewer System*
156 The Liberty Woodlands sewer system sand filter clog is being cleaned out for the rebuild, but he
157 hasn't heard from them since they suggested the rates be raised for a year to help pay the costs.

158
159 *STBG Funds*
160 Engineer Thomson made the commissioners aware of the possibility of losing \$400,000 of federal
161 funds for roadway projects on eligible routes due to significant changes to OA's. The 22 counties
162 were looked at as a group but Engineer Thomson didn't realize the changes took them out of the
163 group nor did he realize what the impacts would be. Sanctions to the State MPO's were discussed.
164
165 Engineer Thomson discussed that he is working with David Gecas on a public records request
166 regarding road maintenance information.

167
168 The Chairman adjourned at 11:30 a.m. for lunch.

169
170 Engineer Thomson stayed awhile and discussed reasons the county would or wouldn't adopt a policy
171 regarding electronic signatures.

172
173 **Board of Health Meeting 1234 2nd Ave S, Okanogan**
174 Commissioners attended the board of health.

175 **Approve Commissioners Proceedings September 7, 2021**
176 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the commissioners meeting minutes of September 7, 2021.
177 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

178
179 **Approve Consent Agenda**
180 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the consent agenda items. Motion was seconded, all were
181 in favor, motion carried.

- 182 1. CDBG Public Services Grant Request #2 No.20-62210-011
- 183 2. CDBG Public Services Grant CV-1 Request #8 No. 20-6221C-119

184
185 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**
186 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those
187 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a
188 list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to
189 approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$1,075,193.17 and Payroll vouchers in the amount
190 of \$983,786.70. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded
191 and carried.

192
193 **Motion Public Health Voucher**
194 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in
195 the amount of \$42,149.54 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$288,673.75. Warrant numbers
196 as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
197 carried.

198
199 **Motion Methow Valley EMS District**
200 Commissioner DeTro moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Methow Valley EMS
201 District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

202
203 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Methow Valley
204 EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$58,867.75. Motion was seconded, all were in
205 favor, motion carried.

206
207 Commissioner DeTro moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS District and Reconvene
208 Tonasket EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

209
210 **Motion Tonasket EMS District**
211 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Tonasket EMS
212 District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$16,200 to Life Line for Services. Motion was
213 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

214
215 Commissioner DeTro moved to adjourn as the Tonasket EMS District and Reconvene as the
216 Oroville Rural EMS. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

217
218 **Motion Oroville Rural EMS District**
219 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Oroville Rural
220 EMS District vouchers to be paid to Life Line in the amount of \$9,680. Motion was seconded, all
221 were in favor, motion carried.

222

223 Commissioner DeTro moved to adjourn as the Oroville Rural EMS District and Reconvene as the
224 BOCC. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.
225
226 The board adjourned at 3:30 p.m.