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**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**OKANOGAN COUNTY**

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2018**

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8 9:00 AM Commissioners' Staff Meeting  
9 10:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting-Auditor & Treasurer  
10 11:00 AM Update – Public Works – Josh Thomson & Ben Rough  
11 1:30 PM Citizens Comment Period  
12 2:00 PM Discussion –Title III Proposals & Fund Obligation  
13 3:00 PM Update –Human Resources/Risk Management  
14 3:30 PM Public Hearing-Tunk Basin Water Availability  
15 4:30 PM Approve Consent Agenda

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17 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners' met for its regular session on September 18,  
18 2018, with Chairman Commissioner Jim DeTro, Vice-Chairman Commissioner Chris Branch,  
19 Member Commissioner Andy Hover and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.  
20

21 George Thornton, member of the public arrived at 9:00 a.m. to take notes.  
22

23 **Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

24 Stella Columbia, Perry Huston, Joe Poulin  
25

26 Commissioner Hover discussed the contract with the Town of Twisp for building inspection  
27 services as Mayor. Ing-Moody wanted to know why all the changes and why the contract is  
28 only in place for one year. Director Huston once again explained cost recovery to the board. It  
29 was suggested that she discuss her concern with the commissioners' all together.  
30 Commissioner Branch discussed opportunity for conflicts while "being in the business" on  
31 temporary contracts. He said we don't charge what we could charge, so he isn't sure what the  
32 challenge is on their end. We might need to hire extra staff if we have long term contracts.  
33 Riverside and Pateros would like that type of long-term arrangement, he said. Twisp was  
34 thought to like that idea too, but Dan Higbee would need to be consulted on that possibility.  
35 Commissioner Hover will relay the county's overview to Mayor Ing-Moody and if she has  
36 questions she can discuss with the full board.  
37

38 The Fair was discussed. The Fair budget was reviewed. Mr. Poulin asked how to handle the  
39 fair related clean up that was supposed to be done when the fair left the grounds.  
40 Commissioners' would like to know where the gaps in staffing occurred above and beyond  
41 what is normally provided. Mr. Poulin's judgement is relied on. Ms. Columbia said the fair is  
42 on site a week before and a week after the fair. Maintenance staff is still mucking out beef  
43 barn, all shaving were scraped into the center but not removed and it was expected that the  
44 Fair leave the grounds as they found them. The county is spending 20 or more man hours  
45 cleaning up after them. Commissioners' would really like to know what it actually costs.  
46

47 The commissioners' would like to see more interesting things to see at the fair. Like log  
48 busting or some other interesting thing. Mr. Poulin explained it appeared to him that the fair  
49 organizers did not want to offer entertainment when the stage had music. There was no "real"  
50 pie eating contests, the art barn has almost completely dropped off. Send student art work to  
51 the fair get the schools more involved. All this should be arranged for now rather than right

52 before the fair. Rearrange the Agriplex so there are more interesting things besides vendors,  
53 have a hunt and find in straw piles, something for kids would be fun. Dunk Tanks with county  
54 commissioners' and other elected officials getting dunked. Teachers could get signed up too  
55 to be dunked.

56  
57 **Motion Services Contract Faith Baptist Mission Church**  
58 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the contract between Okanogan County and Faith  
59 Mission Baptist Church for handling the 2018 Fair gates in the amount of \$6,400 and  
60 authorized the chairman to sin.

61  
62 Mr. Poulin asked about a wood stove in the Fairgrounds shop for winter working.  
63 Commissioner DeTro suggested a propane heater instead. The commissioners' gave  
64 permission to look into purchasing the propane heater and tank. He provided the  
65 commissioners' with a list of work to be completed at the fairgrounds to winterize. (attached)  
66 He explained some training he would like Kyle to attend the Maintenance Facility DUDE  
67 training in Raleigh North Carolina in May in order to learn more about how to utilize the whole  
68 program more effectively. Kyle would then be able to understand its capabilities as he is the  
69 one providing data input. The total cost for both to attend was not given. The board would like  
70 to discuss further. Mr. Poulin would like to at least get Kyle signed up as the classes do fill up  
71 quick and room availability could be reduced.

72  
73 Perry Huston recapped the public hearing held yesterday and the direction of the  
74 commissioners'.

75  
76 **Finance Committee Meeting-Auditor & Treasurer**  
77 Cari Hall, Leah McCormack and Laurie Thomas were present.

78  
79 Ms. Hall explained fund 160 may not have enough revenue to reimburse current expense for  
80 all the initial costs of Jail and Juvenile. A budget will be needed for the reimbursements.  
81 Juvenile staff spoke to Ms. Hall about the vehicle purchase. The Jail meds reimbursement will  
82 be processed soon and the Juvenile vehicle purchase will need to be handled differently as  
83 there was a transfer already in place. The fund has received a total of \$183,830 as of August  
84 and it was thought at the end of the year the amount will be close to what was budgeted to be  
85 received. The Clerk of the Board explained she would be compiling all the Juvenile and Jail  
86 maintenance costs that have been processed from Current Expense and will consult with  
87 Juvenile once the costs have been identified. It was suggested by Huston that funds be  
88 transferred into Maintenance as a revenue line specific to the Juvenile costs. Ms. Hall replied  
89 it would create a nightmare for her because the funds are restricted. It is best and cleaner to  
90 set up the maintenance budget for Juvenile in fund 160 rather than allowing fund 160 revenue  
91 to be receipted to current expense.

92  
93 Treasurer McCormack asked what the budget process looks like for the board. Does the  
94 board wish to meet with departments first. Commissioner Hover thought for the initial budget  
95 meetings with departments the board would ask questions to understand what the needs of  
96 the department are. Then take another look later in the year to see what the county can afford  
97 then give a final allocation to the department to place where needed. Commissioner Branch  
98 commented on the combining of BARS lines for like items. Commissioners' would like the  
99 changes highlighted somehow in the working spreadsheets.

100

101 Ms. McCormack discussed the TV District #1 letter regarding the districts inability to work out  
102 an affordable resolve with the Tribe on their equipment requests. She received an \$8,000  
103 check in the mail for both TV #1 and #2 and so she would like to be at the meeting the board  
104 has with the district to discuss how the check would be handled. She explained mortgage  
105 companies are adding the TV assessment expense to customers mortgage escrow account  
106 and Ms. McCormack has been getting calls from customers of Wells Fargo. She will likely  
107 send the check back to the bank once she discusses the issue with them. She is concerned  
108 about the financial situation of TV #1. The district indicated they could run until June.

109  
110 Treasurer McCormack discussed the finance reports she submitted with her agenda.  
111 Commissioner Hover discussed revenue that would go into current expense reserve and  
112 where those funds can be a cushion for other funds.

113  
114 The Treasurer stated she is taking over the Revolving fund reconciliations because it has  
115 been such a mess. Auditor Thomas stated there are many problems still to be worked  
116 through in terms of the fair processes. The bulk of the expenses in September are not  
117 reflected in the facilities budget because the information provided is only till the end of  
118 August. A supplemental may be needed.

119  
120 Auditor Thomas explained the state provided some funds for the prepaid ballots but with 50%  
121 turn out we have spent half of the \$10,000 of state money and what is left won't cover the  
122 primary postage costs, so the commissioners' thought drawing up a bill to the state would  
123 help. The allocation was based on election turnout of 36%. It is a grant and if the state  
124 decides not to allocate we will be left holding the bag stated Ms. Hall. Director Huston thought  
125 invoicing the state for the boxes and the prepaid postage be billed.

126  
127 **Update – Public Works – Josh Thomson & Ben Rough**

128  
129 Ben Rough provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there.

130  
131 *Open Position*

132 Mr. Rough provided an update on recruitments and new hires for the various positions in  
133 Public Works. He discussed the temporary employee schedule for wintertime. Those will  
134 come on around Thanksgiving. What he is doing is within the scope of the budget and what  
135 has been done in the past. He explained how many temps are assigned to each area.

136  
137 Commissioners' discussed the Solid Waste tipping fees data of the Colville Confederated  
138 Tribe and the different options to be considered regarding the Tribe's request to be excluded  
139 from the tipping fee.

140  
141 Engineer Thomson provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there.

142  
143 **Citizens Comment Period**

144 No citizen provided comment during this time.

145  
146 **Discussion –Title III Proposals & Fund Obligation**

147 Kirsten Smith of Conservation District

148

149 Ms. Smith introduced her assistant. She further explained the Districts proposal for Title III  
150 funds and the highlights. The application was submitted on time in the amount of \$105,000.

151  
152 Commissioner Hover asked what could be reduced on the Conservation District proposal. Mr.  
153 Smith stated the cost share portion is really important and asked that part of the proposal not  
154 be reduced.

155  
156 The commissioners' discussed providing funds for both CWPP update from Emergency  
157 Management and Conservation District for Fire Wise program.

158  
159 **Update –Human Resources/Risk Management**

160 Tanya Craig was present.  
161

162 Ms. Craig updated the board on the law enforcement training that occurred last week. She  
163 said there was good turnout for it. The Risk Pool offered the training for verbal swat. She  
164 explained what it entailed. Agencies present were Tribal police, Omak PD and jail and  
165 sheriff's office, WDFW, and State Patrol. They were really happy the county provided the  
166 training and would like to participate in the further.

167  
168 There are several lawsuits she is working on lately. The courthouse and roads union  
169 negotiations are scheduled this week.

170  
171 Ms. Craig and Commissioner Branch has reached out with the cities about the criminal justice  
172 billings.

173  
174 **Motion Resolution 94-2018 Extending Help in Assessors Office**

175 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 94-2018 extending help in the assessor's  
176 office. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

177  
178

179 **Public Hearing-Tunk Basin Water Availability**  
180 Angie Hubbard, Perry Huston, member of the public George Thornton

181  
182 The audio recorder was turned on.

183  
184 Commissioner DeTro opened the hearing up asking for staff report. Director Huston provided  
185 his staff report. (attached) Director Huston stated this hearing is to take public testimony on  
186 an ordinance that was adopted August 28, 2018. He read the effect of the action as it was  
187 shown on the screen. He stated the objectives of the study. This hearing is a procedural  
188 requirement.

189  
190 The options were discussed. They were:

- 191 1. Leave the interim controls in place
- 192 2. Leave the interim controls in place but adopt additional findings supplementing those  
193 identified in ordinance 2018-13.
- 194 3. Direct Staff to prepare an ordinance amending/repealing the interim control

195  
196 The study area was shown on the screen. Upper Tunk, Lower Tunk, and Tamarack Spring  
197 basins in WRIA #49 as water availability study areas. The objectives identified and subject to

198 additional refinement, were read from the PowerPoint. A graph was shown of the Tonasket  
199 Days below base flow data. In terms of the directive to revise our watershed plan we do need  
200 to take it into account. The various flow data of the areas were reviewed.

201  
202 Nancy Soriano Tunk Valley resident senior water right holder provided her comment. The  
203 map shows well how much land is parceled up. All the divided land shows the potential water  
204 use. There are around 300 wells and already seeing the impacts to senior water. One  
205 particular was to a stock water source. There are over 100 stock water right holders, but any  
206 well that is dug since 1994. She dug in 1992 a well on Liter Mountain and dug over 300 feet  
207 down and they get a lot of water until this year. This may or may not be evidence of impact  
208 but many wells and parceled properties could be developed and was thought impacts would  
209 be very evident. Ms. Soriano stated since the 300 wells have been dug it was found there  
210 was not enough water to irrigate. She believes there is not enough water to serve all the  
211 parcels in the Tunk Valley. The area is super dry. Surface water rights have been curtailed in  
212 the past. Since then DOE understands there is continuity of surface water and why the sub  
213 basins are so dry. Even though it rains 13-16 inches per year only 2% of that is actually  
214 absorbed the rest runs off into the river during spring because the ground is frozen. The  
215 impact of 300 wells taking out water and only 2% is being recharged. During the draught all  
216 the homesteaders left the valley. This is specifically something a hydrologist understands and  
217 recommended. She wants to save and protect the grazing land we have.

218  
219 George Thornton commented based on a concern about developing a process in WRIA 49.  
220 What kind of precedent are the commissioners' establishing? Are there other sub basins or  
221 specific no connected areas and those pose different questions because they are dependent  
222 on their own private watershed therefore should take special consideration. He is concerned  
223 about establishing this generally or just specific to the Tunk Valley.

224  
225 Commissioner DeTro closed public testimony and opened up to the board. Commissioner  
226 DeTro asked if what George was talking about called vernal pools? Yes. Commissioner  
227 DeTro discussed the aspect term in fire or slope-exposure and he could see the stark  
228 difference between the aspect that is west and the aspect on the east. Tunk creek lends to  
229 aspect of afternoon and evening sun, it is like night and day. He agrees with everyone there  
230 are so many anomalies in Okanogan County you only have to go to the Lime belt to see. He  
231 discussed the past Tonasket Homestead development proposal was abandoned because  
232 there wasn't enough water. Historical data serves well and show historical water recessions.

233  
234 Commissioner Branch moved to leave the interim controls in place. Director Huston asked if  
235 the commissioners' would consider adopting additional findings? Commissioner DeTro  
236 pointed to the empty room with only two folks testifying and no other input from the public  
237 recommending specific changes. He was merely posing the question. Commissioner Branch  
238 explained the water shed plan did have some findings in it and thought one finding to add  
239 would be the 2009 plan that addressed Tunk Valley. Commissioner Hover read from the two  
240 findings in ordinance 2018-13 and said he doesn't know if there are other findings at this time  
241 that the board could adopt other than those. Unless there are other findings to adopt that  
242 would provide the detail, then he believes this is adequate. Motion was seconded, all were in  
243 favor, motion carried.

244  
245 The audio recorder was turned off.

246

247 Commissioner Hover went on a field trip to Tunk Valley with Ms. Soriano to get a firsthand  
248 idea of the topography of the valley and discuss the lands that have senior water rights with  
249 reduced water availability.

250  
251 **Approve Consent Agenda**  
252 Commissioner moved to approve the consent agenda items 2-3 removing item 1. Motion was  
253 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried. The board needed additional time to review their  
254 proceedings.

- 255  
256 ~~1. Commissioners' Proceedings September 10 & 11, 2018~~  
257 2. Purchase Authorization-2018/2019 Winter Deicer-Public Works  
258 3. Resolution 93-2018 Cancellation of Outstanding Warrants-Treasurer

259  
260 The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.  
261