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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

8:15 AM Update Superior Court-Dennis Rabidou
9:00 AM Review Meeting Minutes September 18th, September 19th 2023
9:15 AM Public Comment Period
9:30 AM Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation LATCF-Dispatch HVAC
9:30 AM Discussion Noxious Weed Staff Reclassification Request-Larry Hudson
11:00 AM Public Hearing-Utility Franchise U5-23 Kellie Davis-Water Line on Vista View Dr.-
11:05 AM Public Hearing-Utility Franchise U6-23 Marva Junea-Water Line on Vista View Dr.
To Follow Update-Public Works Engineer-Josh Thomson
1:30 PM Commissioner to set Wednesdays Agenda if needed
2:00 PM Department Head Quarterly Meeting
4:00 PM Approve Commissioners Proceedings September 18th, September 19th 2023
4:30 PM Approve Consent Agenda
5:00 PM Public Hearing-Barnholt Loop Speed Limit Change-Jo Ann Stansbury

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on September 26, 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.

Update Superior Court-Dennis Rabidou

Judge Rawson, Court Administrator Dennis Rabidou

Mr. Rabidou stated there are five open positions in Juvenile and one in Superior Court, Judicial Assistant. He is hopeful these positions will be filled soon. There is one being considered.

Mr. Rabidou said they are right on track with the transition of the interpreter position. He thanked commissioners for their support. Superior Court is okay on their overtime budget based on open positions and calculations made by Auditor Hall.

Mr. Rabidou thanked Commissioner Branch for his support for the prevention grant with OBHC and University of Washington as they are ramping up a solid foundation on prevention strategies in the county. April will be the official kickoff month with the preparing of materials. First meeting of the Opioid Abatement council is Thursday. He was not sure who sits on the council. Chelan County Commissioner Overbay is the coordinator, Mr. Rabidou will know more on Thursday after the meeting. Commissioner Hover noted the opioid fund has about \$150,000 but he isn't sure which settlement the funds came from and he'd like to know who those checks came from to make sure the abatement council is working on how to use and disburse the funds. Commissioner Branch thought he would be invited to the meeting since he's been coordinating this with Commissioner Overbay. Mr. Rabidou stated he thought more funds would be submitted.

51
52 What is the status of the Board's decision on extending the WDFW lease of the Justice
53 Building. What is the termination clause? They need it for five years but it is an extensive
54 contracting process. Commissioner Branch will get back to them today.

55
56 Mr. Rabidou stated there is a DCYF lawsuit with about 26 counties participating, has
57 Okanogan County joined? Commissioner Hover stated since Mr. Rabidou is engaged, he
58 asked him to bring that kind of information to the commissioners.

59
60 Judge Rawson had a lengthy discussion about inmates who are released from Jail have to
61 wait over a year before they even get an appointment at a mental health facility such as
62 Western State for required evaluations. This is an issue we have poured some money into
63 but a lot of it is lack of available doctors and evaluators and councilors. There is also a lack
64 of beds, it isn't just opioid issues it is also mental health issues. People were let out of mental
65 health institutions and integrated into society and it seems like its coming back on us. These
66 mental health and drug issues are in middle schools and high schools. After seeing it on TV
67 everywhere, kids and adults are getting desensitized to it. Getting to the individual at a young
68 age is key, their brains are affected and it takes a minimum of two years to help them. It takes
69 that long to un-connect brain cells that are damaged. There is a whole gamut of human
70 development that comes into play. Counties are looking at access and timing with timely
71 evaluations. If they are done in the Jail it may be a quicker process. He'd like to see a mental
72 health monitor and drugs administered as part of the program. We need someone to oversee
73 people's Mental health conditions. It isn't about just sticking them in jail or a mental health
74 hospital they need the personal connection with someone over the long term. Commissioner
75 Branch explained he has been involved in the development of these things a long time in
76 meetings about this. He explained there is someone who offered to connect with people in
77 the jail who are in a situation when they are approachable then connects them with services
78 when they get out. Judge Rawson said We do have a navigator here, but it would be more
79 educational to those incarcerated to have face to face personal contact. There are clues and
80 vibes from people when you have personal contact that helps evaluate a person's situation,
81 there are many aspects. Judge Rawson said it would be nice to support fellow counties as
82 they are willing to help solve the problem, subsidize education, psychiatrists, we don't have
83 one here anymore, it takes a lot of time, it is a long-term program. Mr. Rabidou will discuss
84 with Esther Milner as she is aware and he will find out what is being done with mental health
85 in the jail. It puts the correction people in a terrible position. Provide counseling, monitoring
86 and that would be worthwhile to support, throwing money at hoping it will it without a long-
87 term plan for person to person counseling and monitoring is not the answer. Judge Rawson
88 noted that there's been multiple counties going through the same issues with Juvenile
89 corrections. Commissioner Branch stated that they have gone to the legislature and lobbied
90 for who knows how many years with no success. Judge Rawson sated they have 5
91 candidates for his position sent to the Governor, and he wishes he could have served out his
92 term. Governor Inslee has appointed roughly about 2/3rd of the superior court judges in
93 Washington State. They are just waiting to hear back from the Governor on who is selected.
94 Judge Rawson said this may be his last update, and he would like Judge Grimm to take over
95 his position for updates. He is also concerned by individuals that are incarcerated and
96 presumed innocent, waiting for an evaluation or something of that nature, and it costs the tax
97 payer to have people incarcerated. November 11th is Judge Rawson's birthday, 6 o'clock at
98 the Elks lodge Saturday, everyone is invited. He is having to retire at age 75 due to

99 Washington State Law. Mr. Rabidou stated the OBHC event they had went phenomenal and
100 had great success.

101

102 **Review Meeting Minutes September 18th, September 19th 2023**

103 Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes and offered corrections to be incorporated.

104

105 **Public Comment Period**

106 Ruth Hall was present via Zoom

107 Ms. Hall commented on Judge Rawson's retirement, and she wasn't aware that it was
108 Washington State Law that forces judges to retire at age 75. She also mentioned that the
109 substance use and drug abuse is an epidemic and its very difficult to find a solution, she dealt
110 with it at DSHS as a social worker for nearly 30 years. Even the people that actually work with
111 them, therapists and social workers, they don't agree on things like what the state legislature
112 has done regarding drug addiction.

113

114 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation LATCF-Dispatch HVAC**

115 Commissioner Branch opened up the Public Hearing for comment, asking Ruth Hall for
116 comment first, she had no comment. With no more public or staff present he opened it up for
117 discussion amongst the BOCC.

118

119 **Motion Resolution 127-2023 Budget Supplemental Appropriation LATCF 172**

120 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution 128-2023 a Budget Supplemental within
121 the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund 172 in the amount of \$48,375, motion was
122 seconded, all in favor motion carried.

123

124 Commissioner Branch discussed Columbia River Treaty having been involved with that over
125 the years and negotiations over stream flows and how water management is received.

126

127 **Discussion Noxious Weed Staff Reclassification Request-Larry Hudson**

128 Mr. Hudson explained the loss of several employees in his department. He does conduct exit
129 interviews and many stated that their wage is the main reason. He presented a resolution to
130 rearrange positions to eliminate seasonal positions and a full-time field tech positions in order
131 to provide increase pay to remaining positions. The impact is positive to the Noxious Weed
132 budget.

133

134 The main job of employees is inspecting and talking with landowners and setting up service
135 for the landowners. Commissioner Hover discussed weed free certifications and identification
136 of poisonous weeds. It is important that employees in that office do those types of
137 determinations. The employees must be able to provide as much service as possible, such
138 as consultations of toxic plants, weed control, etc....

139

140 **Motion Resolution 129-2023 Reclassification of Noxious Weed Positions**

141 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 129-2023 approving the reclassification of
142 Noxious Weed office positions. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

143

144 Mr. Hudson stated he will work with Auditor Hall on the needed budget supplemental for these
145 changes.

146

147 **Discussion Mazama Trail Head project**

148 Jim Gregg and Karen Reneau

149

150 The committee is appointed by the county commissioners. They are Casey Smith, new
151 member Bill Craven, John Sunderlund, Claire Bunney, Jim Gregg, Karen Reneau, and Midge
152 Cross

153

154 Mr. Greg asked about a letter of support from the county commissioners for their grant
155 application. They are trying to complete their Comp Plan. It was last approved in 2014 for the
156 sub unit plan. It isn't just Mazama Plan it includes a school unit. It was approved in anticipation
157 of a major ski area proposal resort. He explained how the formation of the group occurred.
158 The plan was in anticipation of development happening. Ms. Reneau stated the plan has a
159 lot of old information that needs to be corrected and more in line of what has happened since
160 it was adopted. Planning Director did look at the plan, but the group needs help to update the
161 plan. They do not have any funding.

162

163 The county did not want to do the administration of the work at the time this was previously
164 discussed. Commissioner Branch discussed the special consideration for help in funding the
165 update and his wish to be consistent with county assistance for planning services.

166

167 Methow More Completely Planned Area and is a supplement to the overall county plan, said
168 Mr. Gregg. They could have a sub unit plan that was separate and could stand on its own.
169 Planning Director has come over twice to help with it. He did speak with Economic Alliance
170 Roni Holder Diefenbach and they did apply to the Infrastructure Committee for county
171 prioritization rating of the project list, but it didn't rate very well last year. But because it has
172 now been rated, the rate will help in this year's grant application.

173

174 The county is applying for LTAC money to sponsor capital improvements for renovations of
175 the piece of the property at the trail parking lot the county owns where the vault toilet is.
176 Commissioner Branch thought it was no different from other municipal LTAC applications that
177 have been awarded.

178

179 Commissioners briefly discussed the need to adopt a policy that outlines the county
180 sponsorship of plans and capital improvements and infrastructure projects and providing
181 funds for costs associated with administering certain county appointed committee projects.
182 The Commissioners discussed applying the policy consistently. These types of committees
183 need money for certain things that are not already covered by donations and volunteers.
184 Commissioner Branch discussed the rural character of communities and those engaged in
185 their communities who make up the rural character of those communities. The people of the
186 Methow are particularly engaged. Mr. Gregg explained media already engaged in providing
187 information about what is happening in those communities.

188

189 **Motion**

190 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the letter of sponsorship for Mazama Advisory
191 Committee application to the Infrastructure Committee prioritization and funding application.
192 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

193

194 **Public Hearing-Utility Franchise U5-23 Kellie Davis-Water Line on Valley View Dr.-Jo**
195 **Ann Stansbury, Engineer Josh Thomson**

196 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing. Ms. Stansbury provided her staff
197 report for U5-2023 for Kellie Davis water line on Valley View Dr. There is an existing
198 franchise so this is a renewal. She received no comments. She explained why there are two
199 franchise renewals. The public hearing notice did note this is on Valley View Dr, not Vista
200 View.

201
202 Commissioner Branch opened up for public testimony, hearing none, he closed to public
203 testimony and opened up the hearing to commissioners.

204
205 **Motion Utility Franchise No. U5-23 Kellie Davis**

206 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the franchise agreement U5-23. Motion was
207 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

208
209 **Motion Resolution 130-2023 Utility Franchise No. 05-23 Kellie Davis**

210 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 130-2023 approving a water line utility
211 franchise agreement No. 05-23 of Kellie Davis on Valley View Dr. Motion was seconded, all
212 were in favor, motion carried.

213
214 **Public Hearing-Utility Franchise U06-23 Marva Juneau-Water Line on Valley View Dr.-**
215 **Jo Ann Stansbury**

216 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing. Ms. Stansbury provided her staff
217 report for U06-23 for Marva Juneau water line on Valley View Dr. There is an existing
218 franchise so this is a renewal. She received no comments. She explained why there are two
219 franchise renewals. The public hearing notice did note this is on Valley View Dr, not Vista
220 View.

221
222 Commissioner Branch opened up for public testimony, hearing none, he closed to public
223 testimony and opened up the hearing to commissioners.

224
225 **Motion Resolution 131-2023 Utility Franchise U 06-23 Marva Juneau Water Line**

226 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 131-2023 a utility franchise agreement
227 06-23 of Marva Juneau for renewal of a water utility franchise

228
229 **Update-Public Works Engineer-Josh Thomson**

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

231
232 *Road Maintenance*

233 Got some rain so that is great. Regular road conditions at this time.

234
235 Removing liner of pond #1. Getting sludge and dirt removed.

236
237 *Construction projects*

238 Johnson Creek culverts work proceeding and getting done.

239
240 Construction of the Tonasket shop (November) and Twisp shop (January) are still on time.
241 The contractors are aware of the timelines. There were some issues with some components
242 but those are on site at the Tonasket shop.

243

244 Old WDFW pit "Texas Creek Addition Inholding" regarding parcel No. 5161630001 requires
245 signature on two forms. The forms have the Engineers name in the signature block. The
246 forms are Lands 20/20 owner acknowledgement form and letter of intent. Does the board
247 want to authorize him to sign, since it doesn't obligate the county for money?
248

249 **Motion**

250 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize Engineer Josh Thomson to sign both the land
251 owner acknowledgement form and letter of intent for the Texas Creek Addition Inholding
252 property parcel no. 516163001. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
253

254 The land acquisition involving RCO and Methow Conservancy was discussed. We are still
255 trying to figure out the arrangement. The Surplus Real Estate Purchase Form regarding I/C
256 No. 2-24-04305 is needed to go with the purchasing packet. It is a standard form the DOT
257 uses for surplus property. This form is currently being reviewed by Chief Civil Attorney
258 Esther Milner.
259

260 Commissioner Branch discussed county permitted roads and some other area roads that
261 come off of them. Commissioner Neal discussed some maintenance on Cape La Belle
262 Road that a landowner asked him about.
263

264 **Commissioner to set Wednesdays Agenda if needed**

265 No meeting was set.
266

267 **CANCELLED Department Head Quarterly Meeting**
268

269 **Approve Commissioners Proceedings September 18th, September 19th 2023**

270 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the meeting minutes of September 18 and September
271 19, 2023 with changes as discussed. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
272

273 **Motion Resolution 120-2023 Signing Authority Kathleen Descoteaux**

274 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution 120-2023 authorizing Kathleen Descoteaux
275 signing authority for the Juvenile Dept. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
276

277 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

278 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those
279 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a
280 list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to
281 approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$1,053,534.92. Noting invoice number 14775156
282 of Pape in the amount of \$2587.74 paid from Fairgrounds and will need to be billed to Fair. A credit
283 memo will also be processed to Fair rental line due to rental delivery delay. Warrant numbers as
284 cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.
285

286 **Approve Consent Agenda**

287 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-7, as presented. Motion was
288 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

- 289 1. **CDBG CV-1 Grant Request #32 \$19,068.49**
- 290 2. **CDBG PS Grant Request #14 \$7,550.36**
- 291 3. **ARPA Req #2 Mobile Command Unit**
- 292 4. **ARPA Req #10 Tunk Mtn Fire Hardening**
- 293 5. **LTAC Contract #23-025 Winthrop Ice & Sports Rink**

- 294 **6. DAHP Grant Agreement Courthouse Phase II-Exterior/Interior Renovations**
295 **7. Consultant Services Agreement-MJ Neal Associates-Justice Building Engineering**
296

297 **Motion Closed Session RCW 42.30.140(4)(b)**

298 Commissioner Hover moved to go into closed session at 2:37 p.m. for five minutes or until 2:42
299 p.m. for union negotiations. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

300
301 Commissioners exited closed session at 2:42 p.m. no decisions were made.

302
303 Andi Herschlager with Central Washington Home Builders Association stopped in to say hi and
304 thanked the commissioners for their work.

305
306 The Washington State Dept of Ag Grant Application (WSDA) for the Fairgrounds will be completed
307 by Commissioner Branch. He said he was going to involve Shelley Keitzman.

308
309 **Motion Authorize Chairman to Submit WSDA Grant Application**

310 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the Chairman Commissioner Branch to sign and submit
311 the grant application to the WSDA for the water and well project on the fairgrounds. Motion was
312 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

313
314 The board adjourned at until 4:45 p.m.

315
316 Session reconvened at 4:50 p.m.

317
318 **Public Hearing-Barnholt Loop Speed Limit Change-Jo Ann Stansbury**

319 The attending public signed in at the door.

320 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing asking for staff report. Jo Ann Stansbury
321 provided her staff report on the petition to reduce the speed limit on Barnholt Loop Road.
322 (attached) She explained where the notice was posted. She received two written comments
323 against the reduced speed limit and one comment was that law enforcement enforce the current
324 speed limit.

325
326 Commissioner Branch opened up for public testimony.

327
328 Kathy Warren One lady commented that she has to back into her driveway and people cannot
329 see coming over the hill multiple animals hit by cars coming over the hill going 40-50 miles per
330 hour. They had little kids and dogs near the road and someone hit her dog who was on the wrong
331 side of the road. She was driving over the speed limit. She regularly walks on the road along the
332 river and a lady came flying around the corner and Ms. Warren had to jump into the field to avoid
333 getting hit. She used to ride her horses on the road.

334
335 Caprice Prep 11 Sitka Lane off Barnholt Loop. A neighbor has horses and donkey and regularly
336 has to cross the road to feed them. In less than a year the owner has almost been hit several
337 times. There are a lot of people in a hurry they just go faster and they are not looking at the road
338 and hills and vegetation impacts visibility. With warning signs and speed limit signs at each end it
339 might help. Going 35 mph only takes 2 minutes to go the length of the road and 3 minutes going
340 25 mph. She hopes the board will approve reducing the speed limit to 25 mph.

341
342 Mary Johnson said there are three different speed limits on the road. Making it one speed limit
343 and consistent that is lower than 35 mph would also help. People stand on the side of the road
344 looking at the racoon tree and they are not thinking about traffic.

345
346 Dr. Johnson said the increase traffic on the loop there is more to look out for like walking people,
347 dogs, kids bicycles etc...

348
349 Cybil Wehmeyer said she watches the traffic go by and many fishermen enjoy the river, and it is
350 scary to see how fast cars go with all the activity on the road. Even the school bus has hit their
351 breaks.

352
353 Robert Kennedy did not wish to testify.

354
355 Commissioner Branch closed the public testimony portion of the hearing and opened up to
356 commissioner discussion. Commissioner Neal said he drove the road last week to see what it is
357 like. He said going 35 would not be an issue. He said it should not be a 50 mph road. Most can
358 afford an extra minute. Commissioner Hover said because a lot of people petitioned, a lot of
359 people live on the road, there are a lot of county roads out there. He said people need to be
360 responsible for their dogs not going on the road as well as their children. If we reduce speed limits
361 we need to reduce it for the proper reasons. The Barnholt loop could become part of the city
362 suburbs. A lot of people want a lower speed limit in the neighborhood. Driving in places with
363 houses close to the road, he is alright lowering the speed limit to 25 but thought talking to the
364 Sheriff to ask what the patrols are like there. Trying to get patrol that is already stretched out might
365 be hard. Commissioner Branch said it is a loop, but it's a neighborhood. Barnholt loop goes the
366 river and through the neighborhood, but it doesn't really go anywhere because it is a loop it isn't
367 the main road or very long. People exceed the speed limit everywhere, but the signs does send
368 a message to drivers that the neighborhood cares about it. Barnholt Loop is a special
369 neighborhood and there is a restaurant there with people outside. Commissioner Neal said the
370 Sheriff should emphasize

371
372 **Motion Ordinance 2023-21**

373 Commissioner Hover moved to approve ordinance 2023-21 setting a speed limit of 25 miles per
374 hour on Barnholt Loop Road effective upon approval. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
375 motion carried.

376
377 Commissioners adjourned at 5:33 p.m.