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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

8:15 AM Update-Superior Court/Juvenile Follow up-Dennis Rabidou
9:00 AM Commissioners' Staff Meeting
10:00 AM Discussion-COVID Capacity-Emergency Management & Public Health
11:00 AM Update Public Works- Engineer- Josh Thomson
1:30 PM Public Comment Period
2:00 PM Department Head Meeting
3:30 PM Approve Commissioners Proceedings September 14, 2021
3:35 PM Approve Consent Agenda

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on September 28, 2021, with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; 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.

Update-Superior Court/Juvenile Follow up-Dennis Rabidou

Commissioner Branch informed Mr. Rabidou the board signed the purchase and sale agreement yesterday. The \$50,000 earnest money is due within 5-days of signing. The Clerk of the Board will process the earnest payment for commissioners' approval this afternoon. Commissioner Branch reminded Mr. Rabidou of his request for a brief proposal that addresses the ARPA options from the Court's standpoint and substantiates the use of ARPA funds for the outright purchase.

Mr. Rabidou explained the courts need to use the hearing room on October 25-26 and November 1-2, 2021 for jury selection.

Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners

Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$126,146.50. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion Public Health Voucher

Commissioner moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in the amount of \$31,574.69. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Hover joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

50 **Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

51 Planning Director Pete Palmer; Emergency Manager Maurice Goodall; Fairgrounds Manager
52 Naomie Peasley, via zoom.

53
54 Director Palmer provided her Planning Department update. She said the first corrected draft of
55 the Comprehensive Plan was received from Jenna. The plan will be reviewed and finalized by
56 staff for the Planning Commission Meeting. The Planning Commission will hold a workshop on
57 the 25 of October and then a public hearing will be held thereafter.

58
59 Director Palmer explained an issue with the original notice for the Sept 28 public hearing on the
60 Building Moratorium Ordinance. The hearing was rescheduled to October 11. The Building
61 Moratorium Ordinance expires October 10.

62
63 The public hearing on the Marijuana Moratorium Ordinance scheduled on October 11 was pushed
64 to October 18.

65
66 Director Palmer said she is setting appointments on Wednesday's with Marijuana operators to
67 discuss the marijuana moratorium with them. Shoreline Development permits now require a
68 preliminary meeting with Planning staff to relay to the applicant the permitting process and
69 requirements so there are no surprises later on.

70
71 Open Space Open Space reconciliations have been overwhelming the planning department.
72 Equity in the Open Space program was discussed. Right now, properties in the classification are
73 given a 50% reduction and some were getting a 75% reduction and some do not meet the
74 eligibility requirements at all.

75
76 Craig McDonald responded to the RFQ for Methow Watershed planning and is meeting with
77 Director Palmer and Commissioner Hover on October 4. A contract will be drafted for
78 consideration.

79
80 Mr. Goodall said it was recommended the county lift its Burn ban on October 1 but he is still
81 waiting to meet with DNR later today.

82
83 The All Hazards Mitigation Plan is at the state being reviewed. No comments were received, said
84 Mr. Goodall.

85
86 **Motion Authorizing the Chairman's Signature**

87 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the chairman to sign the resolution that will lift the
88 county's burn ban on Friday, October 1. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
89 (Resolution 123-2021)

90
91 Emergency Management Council will meet next Thursday October 7 via zoom. The Council is
92 comprised of the 13 city mayors and the county commissioners. This will be a special meeting of
93 the BOCC.

94
95 Ms. Peasley updated the board on the fairgrounds. She inquired about her request for permanent
96 office staffing. Commissioner Hover reviewed the fairgrounds budget, but the board is not on the
97 same page with the request. Commissioner Hover said he reviewed the Grant Applications and
98 he is comfortable with them being submitted.

99

100 Commissioner Hover stated he would like to look at the fairgrounds budget because expenses
101 are over \$300,000 to operate and the grounds anticipate \$100,000 revenue.

102

103 **Discussion-COVID Capacity-Emergency Management & Public Health**

104 Maurice Goodall, Lauri Jones

105

106 Commissioner Hover asked and Ms. Jones explained hospital capacity is related to lack of
107 capacity for sick people and lack of staff to tend to them. Hospital staffing is an issue nationwide.
108 Okanogan County has the highest incidence rate right now. So, no permit will be issued for the
109 Family Fair unless the county's rate goes down significantly in the next 14 days. Public Health
110 doesn't feel the same about the Family Fair as they felt about the County Fair because so many
111 come from out of the area.

112

113 Ms. Jones stated there are state emergency preparedness plans, but we could not fulfill our part of
114 the plan due to staffing. Ms. Jones said people are burned out, weary, and tired. She explained how
115 many COVID patients are in the hospitals in Okanogan County. For COVID patients, day 8 and 10
116 are critical, said Ms. Jones.

117

118 Ms. Jones said the October hydroplane races were cancelled due to COVID concerns.

119

120 **Motion Agreement Professional Services Elevations-Beaman Architecture Ltd.**

121 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Professional Services agreement between Okanogan
122 County and Beaman Architecture Ltd. To provide elevation drawings of the courthouse, annex, and
123 Red Cross buildings for \$2,000. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

124

125 **Motion Contract-LTAC 21-010 Marketing & Promotion-Fairgrounds**

126 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the contract for Lodging Tax Funds between Okanogan
127 County and Fairgrounds for 2021. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

128

129 **Motion Resolution 122-2021 Amending the Personnel Manual**

130 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 122-2021 amending the personnel manual to
131 clarify the cap for medical benefits. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

132

133 **Approve Commissioners Proceedings September 20 and 21, 2021**

134 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the commissioners' proceedings of September 20 and
135 September 21, 2021. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

136

137 **Approve Consent Agenda**

138 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-6. Motion was seconded, all
139 were in favor, motion carried.

140 1. Supplemental #1 2020 Gravel Crushing or Supply Project Materials-N. Central Testing

141 2. Bid Award- 2021 Wildfire Guardrail Repair Project – Frank Gurney, Inc.

142 3. Purchase Authorization Snow Plow Blades-Enterprise Services

143 4. Award Purchase of One (1) Wheel Loader-NC Machinery Co.

144 5. Award Purchase of One (1) Motor Grader-NC Machinery Co.

145 6. Award Purchase of Two (2) Tandem Axle Dump Trucks

146

147

148

149

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

151

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

153

154 *Solid Waste Steam Treatment Reverification*

155

156 *Maintenance & Road Conditions*

157 *Loup Loup Creek Guard-Next Week*

158 *Balky Hill Rd Irrigation Bridge Removal Start 10/11*

159 *Crew Open Positions*

160

161 *Areas 3 & 5 Shops*

162 Commissioner Hover stated the county intends to Bond the shops since the county is in the
163 Bonding mode. Updated numbers will be provided by the Engineer as requested by
164 Commissioner Hover. Engineer Thomson discussed the funding cap.

165

166 *Tawlks Foster Bridge Scour Protection*

167 Engineer Thomson received a concept drawing from Yakama Nations to protect the bridge with
168 wood. Commissioner Hover asked what the timeline is.

169

170 *STBG Funds*

171 Omak did get their construction project obligated and Brewster came through with theirs, so we
172 at target.

173

174 Commissioners adjourned for lunch at 11:30a.

175

176 **Public Comment Period**

177 Isabelle Spohn commented about the Comp Plan process and most recent copy she saw and
178 asked that the Planning Commission have a split meeting one during the day and one during the
179 evening for those who work in the daytime. She cannot find the deadline for submitting written
180 comments.

181

182 Raven commented on the recent fire in her neighborhood. When the fire was out, she was
183 shocked by the level of policing on the public lands afterward. She was told she would damage
184 the environment, but she also noticed continued ranching on closed lands that are introducing
185 weeds to burned areas, and cattle also damaging the environment. Why are there cattle on the
186 burned land, what are they eating? The public has been locked out of the forest, but then there
187 are large scale logging operations and cattle grazing, but fines are being issued for anyone else
188 in the forest. She has reached out to the regional office for transparency and responses have
189 been evasive and vague and not transparent at all. She hopes the commissioners can prompt
190 Forest Service to be transparent. She proposed a citizen oversight board who would be allowed to
191 see what is happening on the land. How many board feet of timber is being taken off the land.
192 She would like to regain local trust in the forest service. Forest Service should reallocate the funds
193 used to keep people off the forest to fund proactive policing during high fire time before a fire.
194 Commissioner Hover responded.

195

196 **Motion – SPECIAL Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

197 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those
198 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a
199 list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to

200 approve the Special vouchers in the amount of \$53,288.45. Warrant numbers as cited on the
201 attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

202

203 **Department Head Meeting**

204 Present: Leah McCormack, Larry Gilman, Karen Beatty, Kayla Moses, Larry Hudson, Mike
205 Worden, Dave Rodriguez, Josh Thomson, Dan Higbee, Tanya Everett, Felicia Chandler, Jan
206 Million, Joe Poulin, Maurice Goodall, Tony Hawley

207

208 Cari Hall, Lisa Schreckengost, Jamie Groomes via zoom.

209

210 Commissioner Hover explained the county purchase of the Forest Service Building in Okanogan
211 for Superior Court use for \$1.65 million due to the COVID situation. Commissioner Branch stated
212 a conditional Use Permit is required by the city of Okanogan for the Juvenile functions. It is about
213 a 24,000 square foot building plus parking in the immediate proximity to the Public Works building.

214

215 Treasurer McCormack asked which departments would remain in the courthouse. Commissioner
216 Hover said it is not decided and is still up in the air.

217

218 Assessor Larry Gilman provided his department update.

219 Building Official Dan Higbee provided his department update.

220 Auditor Cari Hall did not wish to provide an update.

221 Emergency Management Maurice Goodall did not report.

222

223 Coroner Dave Rodriguez provided his department update. He has been very busy, not just in
224 Okanogan. Less people are going to the hospital so that is why he thinks the numbers are going
225 up. Suicide deaths are up. Also having problems with storage while transitioning from one facility
226 to another.

227

228 Noxious Weed Manager Larry Hudson provide his Noxious Weed update reporting obligations
229 are being met even though staffing is insufficient.

230

231 Attorney Felicia Chandler reported for the Prosecutor's department is very busy preparing for high
232 profile trials. Commissioner Hover said budget for the civil side is not very big and that side
233 answers questions of the commissioners and civil matters. As the County starts to look at what
234 Okanogan County needs, such as the civil side of the prosecutor's office.

235

236 Sheriff Tony Hawley reported among other things that he is working with OBHC on how to utilize
237 and communicate with them when deputies need assistance in order to follow the new law
238 limitations.

239

240 Chief Communication Mike Worden reported on the Communications department.

241

242 Engineer Josh Thomson provided his report. He said the county plans to build two new shops
243 beginning next year.

244

245 Treasurer McCormack provided her report. She reported on the Bonding process, county financial
246 rating, and we must all work as a team.

247

248 Kayla Wells-Moses reported on the Capstone project survey. The data is being evaluated and
249 sometime in November or December the findings will be presented.

250

251 Central Services, Karen Beatty provided her report. She said the Risk Pool is making available a
252 subscription training to train users about malicious random cyber issues and will be one hour per
253 year or 15 minutes every quarter with a certificate that prove users completed the training.

254
255 Maintenance, Joe Poulin reported on the courthouse complex maintenance and projects
256 beginning. Custodial staffing has been hired for the open position.

257
258 Aaron Culp reported the Jail is extremely short handed due to COVID protocols. A lot of overtime
259 has been generated as a result.

260
261 Commissioner Hover reported on the upcoming budget process requesting departments attend at their
262 scheduled time. The board would like to complete the budget by December 4, 2021, if possible.

263
264 The board adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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