

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING**

SATURDAY

9:00 A.M.

JULY 31, 2004

Board members present: Chairman Perry Huston, Vice-Chairman Bruce Coe and Commissioner Max Golladay.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Derald Gaidos, Fire Marshall; Allison Kimball, CDS Operations Supervisor; Gene Dana, Sheriff; Amy Mills, Treasurer

SPECIAL MEETING

COUNTY FIRES

SHERIFF

At approximately 9:00 a.m. **CHAIRMAN HUSTON** opened an emergency special meeting. He explained there had been several fires in Kittitas County, causing danger to the lives and property of citizens in Kittitas County. He said once the Sheriff had contacted him about declaring an emergency, he contacted the other two Board members and the Daily Record notifying them of the emergency special meeting.

GENE DANA, SHERIFF reviewed the state of conditions. He said there were many homes evacuated in the Elk Heights/Sunlight Waters area, with approximately 4 structures destroyed. He said there had been eleven fires in eleven days. There had been approximately 200 homes evacuated in the area, and there were approximately 88 people being housed at the Thorp High School Gym. The American Red Cross had been assisting those evacuees. As of 6:00 a.m. there were still several spot fires located in the area, and he was concerned because of the weather forecast for later in the afternoon. They expected high temperatures and high winds. There were people located at all access points to keep citizens away from the fires, and mentioned their man power is becoming stretched. **DERALD GAIDOS, FIRE MARSHALL** reviewed the weather conditions and state of mobilization. He said the fire fighters should be commended for their outstanding efforts. He said the fires were under investigation, and a task force had been set up including people from the state and federal level, and will be pursuing every lead.

COMMISSIONER COE had visited the area, and was very impressed with the coordinated efforts. He commended everyone for their efforts.

CHAIRMAN HUSTON offered a ruling, recognizing the strained resources relating to the protection of the Kittitas County citizens health and safety, due to the recent fires, to authorize the Sheriff to set up the Emergency Operations Center, to declare a state of emergency for Kittitas County, and to direct staff to prepare the necessary documentation for the Boards consideration on Tuesday August 3, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Auditorium, Room 109, County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONER COE moved to support the ruling of the Chair.

COMMISSIONER GOLLADAY seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Julie A. Kjorsvik

Perry D. Huston, Chairman