

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
KITTTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**TUESDAY**

**4:00 P.M.**

**MARCH 7, 2006**

Board members present: Chairman David Bowen; Vice-Chairman Commissioner Alan Crankovich and Commissioner Perry Huston.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Scott Bradshaw, Public Works Director; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Sue Higgenbotham, Elections Supervisor; Randy Carbary, Public Works Staff; Jane Wright, Public Health Staff and Nancy Goodloe, Public Health Administrator.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**VOTING OPTIONS**

**AUDITOR**

At approximately 4:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN BOWEN** opened the continued public hearing to consider the option to go Vote-By-Mail for all elections held in Kittitas County.

**JERRY PETTIT, KITTTITAS COUNTY AUDITOR** reviewed the history of Kittitas County going vote-by-mail for elections. He noted the prior public hearings held in Cle Elum and in Ellensburg.

**THERE BEING NO PUBLIC REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**CHAIRMAN BOWEN** explained he did not feel comfortable giving up the citizen's right to go out to the polls to vote during election time. He acknowledged the majority of citizens do vote by mail, but there are those who enjoy going out to the polls, claiming it gives them the feeling of community. He said although the County may go that direction at some point in the future, he did not feel it was appropriate at this point in time. He reminded everyone that the Auditor has the ability to reduce the number of poll sites, and does not require the legislative authority's approval. **COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** supported retaining polling sites and felt Election Day was special to many people. He acknowledged although there was 65% of Kittitas County citizens that are now voting by mail, there are still 35% of the people going out to the polls. **COMMISSIONER HUSTON** felt by going all vote-by-mail would be taking away options for citizens who still go out to the polls and make it an annual event. He supported the Auditor for looking into consolidating polling sites for better efficiency, but still felt there needed to be a more physical presence and symbol in our community.

**RESOLUTION 2006-40**

**RETAIN POLLING SITE VOTING OPTION**

**AUDITOR**

**COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** moved to approve Resolution No. 2006-40, Retaining the Polling Site Voting Option in Kittitas County.  
**COMMISSIONER HUSTON** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

---

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**AMEND 2005 PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET**

**AUDITOR**

At approximately 4:14 p.m. **CHAIRMAN BOWEN** opened the public hearing to consider amending the 2005 Public Health Budget in the amount of \$83,250.00.

**JUDY PLESS, BUDGET & FINANCE MANAGER** reviewed the proposed budget amendment. She said throughout the year the Board of County Commissioners signed agreements for additional grant funding and needs, which required the 2005 budget amendments, including a Bioterrorism Grant \$14,575.00; Bioterrorism Grant T-1 \$18,675.00 and Shape Up Grant \$50,000.00. **NANCY GOODLOE, PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR** provided a Memo dated March 7, 2006, outlining strategies for monitoring budget amendments for the Kittitas County Public Health Department, which would become effective immediately, in order to prevent problems from occurring in the future. **COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** questioned how it happened? **MS. GOODLOE** felt it was a number of various things that occurred including a change in their budget manager. She claimed she was unaware of how budget amendments happen, and couldn't provide any explanation for how it occurred.

**THERE BEING NO ONE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**RESOLUTION 2006-41**

**AMEND 2005 PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET**

**AUDITOR**

**COMMISSIONER HUSTON** moved to approve Resolution No. 2006-41, Amending the 2005 Public Health budget in the amount of \$83,250.00.  
**COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

---

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**OPEN SPACE TAXATION ACT**

**COMMISSIONERS**

At approximately 4:17 p.m. **CHAIRMAN BOWEN** opened the public hearing to consider applications for reclassification as Open Space Land for Current Use Tax Assessment under the Open Space Taxation act, for Jeremy Porter, Daniel Ederer and Cabin Mountain LLC.

**MEGAN CALAIS, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD** reviewed the three separate applications for Open Space Land for Current Use Tax Assessment, and noted they application fees had been paid, and legal descriptions had been reviewed by the Assessor's office. Jeremy Porters request

is for Parcel Number 21-14-16000-0003; Daniel Ederer's request is for Parcel Number 21-14-35000-0007; and Cabin Mountain LLC is for Parcel Numbers 21-12-13050-0001, 21-12-13050-0002 and 21-12-13050-0003. **MR. PHIL HESS, FORESTER** said he had prepared the Forest Management Plans for both Mr. Porter and Mr. Ederer and said their application complied with RCW 84.23 and Board of County Commissioner Resolution No. 94-25. He requested the Board's support of their applications. **VIC MONAHAN, REPRESENTING CABIN MOUNTAIN, LLC** said he was a consulting Forester and requested the Board's support of their applications.

**THERE BEING NO ONE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** moved to approve and authorize the Chair to sign Open Space Taxation Agreements with Daniel Ederer, Jeremy Porter and Cabin Mountain, LLC. **COMMISSIONER HUSTON** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

---

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**PASSMORE ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

At approximately 4:26 p.m. **CHAIRMAN BOWEN** opened the public hearing to consider the vacation of a portion of Passmore Road Right-of-Way located in Section 7, Township 18N, Range 18E, W.M.

**SCOTT BRADSHAW, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS** reviewed his Engineer's Report on the proposed vacation. He explained a request was received on January 13, 2006, from Land Developer Manager, Gabriel Oh of Contour, Inc. on behalf of Sundance Ridge, LLC. The total acreage of the right-of-way is 5.96 acres. The portion of Passmore Road requested to be vacated, was so the current resident and owner (Greg Newhall) of the ranch formally owned by Ken McBride, could have additional privacy, as the portion they are requesting for the vacation only serves the ranch property. The estimated value of land to be vacated is \$6,855.50. He said Passmore Road is currently a public road, but they have found no establishment paperwork. The initial review of the current property indicates a potential 18+ lots in the currently zoned Ag-20, through the exempt segregation process there could be up to 34 lots created; therefore it may be advisable to preserve the right-of-way for future development.

**COMMISSIONER HUSTON** questioned who built the 18-foot gravel surface? **MR. BRADSHAW** said it was unknown, but the County has been actively maintaining it (grading and putting rock on it) for quite some time, noting it had been done as recent as 3 months ago. He said the 40 foot easement drawings had been made available from GIS, since their department has been unsuccessful finding any records of plat drawings, etc.

**CHRIS CRUSE, AUTHORIZED AGENT FOR SUNDANCE RIDGE** said the request would not eliminate any public access to public lands, and the benefit to the public would be that the County would not longer need to provide maintenance anymore. If the Board approves the request, it would enable the private land owners to maintain the area.

**GREG NEWHALL, PROPONENT** explained the intent of his request, stating he felt it would be a win-win situation. He said the benefit would allow him to have more privacy, and in turn the County would no longer need to maintain it. He noted Eldon Weidenbach would still have access to his property through an easement.

**COMMISSIONER HUSTON** questioned the road count that was conducted by the Public Works Department, claiming it was reported as 54 per day, and why it would be that high if it doesn't serve anyone but the owner. **MR. BRADSHAW** said their department has an annual survey counter system which counts the number of trips per day on a certain road, and this count was done over a 72 hour period during the month of April or May (he said he would check into the exact date it was conducted).

**THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: ELDON WEIDENBACH** said he owned the ranch on the east side of the road. He explained the history of the road, stating it was originally a canal back in the 1920's and then later the KRD converted it into a road. He did not have an issue with the request; as long as he was assured he would still have access to his property. **DEAN SCHWARTZ** said he lives on the bottom portion of Passmore Road, and questioned if the County would still maintain that portion of the road. He said he does not have any issue with the request. **FORREST CROSS** said he lives at the beginning of Passmore Road, and noted the traffic counter had been placed near his home. He stated he had no issues with the request. **THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**COMMISSIONER HUSTON** questioned the number of adjacent property owners that service the development. **RANDY CARBARY, REPRESENTING THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** explained the internal system which would serve the lots, noting it was private.

**CHAIRMAN BOWEN** said he had an uneasy feeling that he did not have all the information in front of him to make an informed decision on the request at this time. **COMMISSIONER HUSTON** agreed with Commissioner Bowen and said he needed to see something better than the map with the subdivision and Passmore Road. He said he would also like to see if any notes or information exist on the subdivision, and if it references Passmore Road. He also requested a historical recitation of how the County got involved with the road.

**CHAIRMAN BOWEN** moved to continue the public hearing to Tuesday March 21, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Auditorium, Room 109, County Courthouse, and to reopen the public testimony portion of the hearing, after staff provides their results and findings.  
**COMMISSIONER HUSTON** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

**CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

---

**Julie A. Kjorsvik**

---

**David Bowen, Chairman**