

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL MEETING**

THURSDAY

1:00 P.M.

JUNE 14, 2007

Board members present: Alan Crankovich, David Bowen & Mark McClain.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Debbie Strand, Economic Development Group; Catherine Clerf, Bruce Tabb, Desmond Knudson, Lynn Jenison, Bob Titus, Fritz Glover, JJ Collins, Doug Ryder and Jerry Decker.

SPECIAL MEETING

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP

COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Crankovich called the meeting to order.

Debbie Strand, Executive Director for the Economic Development Group, gave the Board of County Commissioners an update on the proposed Comtronic Systems building project that had been planned for out at the airport business park. She reported that Comtronic Systems had pulled out of the agreement for a building at the site. She said a tenant in the Upper County where they are currently located had moved out of the building next to them they would be taking over that space. She reviewed options that could possibly be used for the one-million dollar CERB grant that had been obtained for that project.

Commissioner Bowen apologized and explained that he was under the assumption that all the necessary requirements had been completed and then once the County had found that some of those had not been completed, they put the project on a fast track. He said the County is still waiting to receive assurances of the led removal from the Skeet Club. He said once the zoning and plating has been put in place at the business park they would like to be ready for whatever projects may come to the County. Fritz Glover felt the County Commissioners should get after the Ellensburg Business Development Authority and be proactive to get businesses to want to come to the County. Bruce Tabb reviewed the past relationship between the County and the EBDA as well as their views for their future relationship. He said the County needs to have everything in place prior to getting businesses to even consider moving out to the airport business park area. Commissioner Bowen reviewed his personal vision of having everything ready and available along with the zoning in place. He said he would be willing to personally go out to the Puget Sound area and ask that the EBDA go along with him to see if

companies are interested in expanding their business into this area. He said the County hopes to hire an airport manager this next year, but was unsure of the exact timing that it would occur.

Ms. Strand suggested having the airport manager located away from other County offices, and offered to house them in her office. She said she was concerned about the perception and worried about the person getting side-tracked with other County business and not being as focused with the functions at the airport and business park area. She felt the relationship would be more beneficial in the community having them housed outside of a government office. Mr. Glover discussed the importance of having someone responsible and accountable for making sure all the pieces are in place with necessary follow through. Ms. Strand asked to have one contact person for coordination purposes when people want to get information about the area. She said without a tenant, the money may not be available from CERB. She explained they could get a five year deferral on a \$500,000 loan for 15 years, although the County would sign off to assume the financial piece of it for default purposes. She asked for the Boards support of withdrawing sales and use tax and transferring it to a specific project.

Commissioner Crankovich asked for a detailed summary and list as to what the EBDA's needs are and submit them to the Board. Commissioner Bowen said once the Board receives a summary of needs they will schedule a public hearing for discussion. Commissioner McClain offered to be the liaison between the Board of County Commissioners and the EBDA.

Meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Julie A. Kjorsvik

Alan Crankovich, Chairman