

**COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
KITTTAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
SPECIAL MEETING
UPPER KITTTAS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
CLE ELUM, WASHINGTON**

TUESDAY

6:00 P.M.

JULY 31, 2007

Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich, Vice-Chairman David Bowen.
Excused: Commissioner Mark McClain.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board and seven members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

RAIL DISTRICT

COMMISSIONERS

At approximately 6:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** opened the public hearing to consider the request to submit to the voters, a ballot for the formation of a Kittitas County Rail District, pursuant to RCW 36.60.

LOUIS MUSSO REPRESENTING THE CLE ELUM DOWNTOWN

ASSOCIATION gave a brief report stating since 2001 there has been an effort to consider restoring passenger rail service in Kittitas County. He said everything they have found in the past seven years that it is possible to restore service for passenger rail service to Kittitas County, including the engineering aspect. The 2001 legislative session passed a bill to change RCW 36.60 allowing to create freight districts, and it has since included passenger rail districts to be established, but the issue needs to go before the voters. He said the formation of a Rail District does not allow for additional taxes or new entities.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: GREG LUCKMAN spoke in favor of forming a County Rail District. He said he goes to Vancouver several times a month and having passenger rail service to Kittitas County would be beneficial for many people.

HOWARD BRIGGS said he was in favor of forming a Rail District and spoke of the benefits it would provide citizens. **JOANNE IVERSON** testified in favor of re-establishing passenger rail service to Kittitas County. **JOANNE BRIGGS** said she was in favor of the proposal. **PAM HENSHAW** felt there would be economic benefits to Cle Elum by re-establishing a passenger rail system. **WILLIAM J. DOYLE** felt establishing a passenger rail system was a positive step for Kittitas County and felt it would provide economic benefits.

COMMISSIONER BOWEN moved to continue the public hearing to Wednesday August 1, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Auditorium, Room 109, Kittitas County Courthouse, noting the record would remain open. **CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

**KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

ATTEST:

Julie A. Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board

Alan Crankovich, Chairm