

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

WEDNESDAY

2:00 P.M.

JANUARY 21, 2009

Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich; Vice-Chairman Paul Jewell and Commissioner Mark McClain.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Nancy Goodloe, Chair of the Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Fenelle Miller, City of Ellensburg representative on the Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee and five members of the public in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE 10-YEAR PLAN COMMISSIONERS

At approximately 2:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** opened a public hearing continued from January 6, 2009, to consider the Kittitas County Homelessness Committee's Ten Year Plan to reduce homelessness and funding expenditures from the Homelessness Assistance Fund (Fund Number 114) (2163 monies) or Low Income Housing Fund (Fund Number 112) (2060) monies. He noted the record was closed.

NANCY GOODLOE, CHAIR OF THE HOMELESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE gave a brief review of the history of the committee and their draft 10-Year Plan which is required by the State. She said at the end of the January 6, 2009 public hearing, the Board of County Commissioners instructed them to come back with a framework for each one of their proposed projects. She said one of the issues that they have found while doing their review is that agencies do not know what is being done by the other and ultimately, the client ends up being sent from one to the other. She explained the funds proposed to designate for emergency housing; a 24/7 enhanced crisis line; a 4People database system which would assist agencies in tracking clients and the services they are receiving; a grant process to obtain funds from the County; and a reserve account for funds to be held. She recommended the Board approve their plan as presented on January 6, 2009 along with the proposed framework of expenditures.

COMMISSIONER JEWELL expressed concerns of making mortgage payments for people on a grant basis versus loans. **COMMISSIONER McCLAIN** thought the statute prohibits the funds being used for mortgages. **COMMISSIONER JEWELL** noted the reservations he would have for a database system, along with the comments that had been received from various agencies at the last hearing. He noted it was not included

in their framework for 2010 and thought there should be a less of an expensive way to track the small amount of people in the county.

MS. GOODLOE said she had since received a commitment from four agencies who were willing to try out the database system for this year and hoped it would go well so other agencies would eventually want to sign up for it as well. She requested the Board to allow them to try the database system out for one year. **FENNELLE MILLER** said they charge a flat amount of \$7,500.00 no matter how many agencies sign up and then the County would have no liability after that and it would be up to the agencies to pay the annual \$750.00 fee. She indicated the faith based communities would be able to participate if they choose at a rate of \$75.00 per year.

COMMISSIONER McCLAIN said the act addresses issues relating to confidentiality and how it must be maintained. **MS. MILLER** noted the system was also HIPPA compliant and password protected. She indicated the program will not replace a human being, but it would lessen the burden of those employees who are currently working for the agencies so they would no longer need to be calling other agencies trying to find out if a client has already received services. **JANELLE FROM HOPESOURCE** indicated with HMIS, about 80% of their clients will allow them to give out their information to other agencies and the other 20% do not. **COMMISSIONER McCLAIN** noted although the Point in Time count meets the federal definition of homeless, they need to focus on the State definition in order to solve the 50% reduction. The Board provided suggestions to change words in the plan. He questioned the administration costs and asked if the County is taking any portion of those. **JERRY PETTIT, AUDITOR** said the intent of their process was to take the percentage as allowed by statute for the administration part of it and was unsure if any had been taken out at all yet. He said they would be looking at taking a percentage out for administration costs which would then go back into the general fund.

COMMISSIONER McCLAIN moved to adopt the 10-Year Plan with the changes as discussed by the Board. **COMMISSIONER JEWELL** seconded.

COMMISSIONER McCLAIN thanked the committee members for their hard work and appreciated the efforts for getting the plan done quickly. **COMMISSIONER JEWELL** appreciated the prevention pieces that were included in the plan.

Motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONER McCLAIN moved to continue the public hearing to Tuesday February 3, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Auditorium, Room 109, Kittitas County Courthouse, to consider enabling documents. **COMMISSIONER JEWELL** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD


Julie A. Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Alan Crankovich, Chairman