

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL MEETING**

THURSDAY

1:30 P.M.

APRIL 15, 2010

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

Others: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Judy Pless, Budget and Finance Manager; Joseph Whalen, Human Resources Director.

SPECIAL MEETING

FINANCE COMMITTEE

COMMISSIONERS

At 1:30 p.m. **Chairman McClain** opened a special meeting to discuss the financial outlook for the County. **Chairman McClain** announced there would be an Executive Session with the Human Resources Director regarding employment issue at the end of the meeting.

Chairman McClain asked how the County was doing on spending? **Judy Pless, Budget and Finance Manager** said everyone was watching their money carefully.

Commissioner Crankovich asked Ms. Pless if she had any ideas for \$1 million needed for the Road Department Levy Shift. She said that sales tax is coming in as was budgeted. The General Fund Preliminary ending fund balance is a negative \$36,431.40. She said that taxes receivable is the biggest receivable the County has, and that will be the indicator of whether the money is available.

Commissioner McClain said the Upper County District Court is considering a lease on a Pitney Bowes mail machine. **Commissioner Crankovich** moved to approve the Upper County lease for the Pitney Bowes Mail Machine. **Judy Pless** said there were different mail machine models on the State Contract, and she would work with Linda Childs, Upper County Court Administrator, on this purchase. The motion died for lack of a second.

Vice-Chairman Jewell asked Judy Pless if she signed off on PAF's where the ratings are above average? She said she makes sure the position is budgeted for, but not whether the salary increase stays within the budget. He asked how the County makes sure the increase is budgeted for. **Joseph Whalen** said that was up to the Department Head to monitor. **Judy Pless** said it was not up to her to tell Department Heads what to pay people. **Vice-Chairman Jewell** said the Board's concern is that some PAF's are being artificially inflated,

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making the rating higher. His question is whether they are living within the means of the County. He said the ratings are being based on the employee, not on the budget, and this policy needs to be changed.

Commissioner Crankovich said there needs to be a different way of evaluating personnel. **Joseph Whalen** said the directive should come from the Board. **Commissioner Crankovich** suggested giving a minimal increase at employment date then divide what is left in the budget left at the end of the year. **Chairman McClain** suggested showing reductions in a departmental budget in some areas to use the funds saved for salary increases. **Judy Pless** said the evaluation is all in the interpretation. **Chairman McClain** suggested a certification that Department Heads/Elected Officials would sign stating the salary increase would keep within the department budget.


A lively discussion continued with nothing resolved.

At 2:07 p.m. **Chairman McClain** announced that the Board would retire into Executive Session for 5 minutes with **Joseph Whalen, Human Resources Director** to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to RCW 42.30.140 (4), discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public. No action was anticipated.


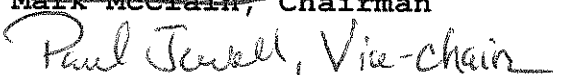
At 2:12 p.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session. No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


Catherine Dunn

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Mark McClain, Chairman

Paul Jewell, Vice-Chair