

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

WEDNESDAY

9:00 A.M.

JULY 27, 2011

Board members present: Chairman Paul Jewell; Vice-Chairman Alan Crankovich and Commissioner O'Brien.

Others: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board, Clayton Myers, Undersheriff; Gene Dana, Sheriff and seven members of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING

SECURE COMMUNITIES

COMMISSIONERS

At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Jewell opened a Special Meeting to discuss a letter dated June 14, 2011 from the First United Methodist Church, signed by Rev. Shalom Agtarap, Greg McLaughlin and Larry Lowther.

Sheriff Gene Dana reviewed the letter submitted along with the concerns expressed at previous meetings since the raid on January 20, 2011. He discussed the concerns regarding the potential of increased work load for the Corrections personnel. He explained the differences with the new software being considered and explained that the only changes are, is that currently the Jail staff has more steps to complete what the new software is going to do with minimal effort. He explained that the other difference is everyone will be fingerprinted instead of fingerprinting individuals that are not cooperating with by providing information, etc. He explained that there is no cost to the County, and it actually saves staff time. He noted that the software is paid for by Homeland Security.

Undersheriff Clay Myers explained the process for when ICE is contacted by staff when they are currently running checks. He also reviewed some of the types of questions asked in a typical check.

Sheriff Dana stated that the County has applied for the software and they have been approved, but now they are just waiting for it to be installed.

Larry Lowther explained that he was responsible for bringing the letter in for the Board to consider on behalf of himself and other members of the First United Methodist Church. He expressed concerns of how the information is being used and stated how he feels the immigration system is broken. He questioned the potential of local law enforcement sending the finger prints to Homeland Security only if the prints are ran and the individual is convicted of a serious crime in the States.

APPROVED
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Sheriff Dana explained the process of when a hold is placed on a foreign national.

Rev. Shalom Agtarap expressed her concerns about the language used throughout the January 20, 2011 raid. She stressed the importance of picking up only the foreign nationals that were set out to be picked up and not every other person in between because they happened to be there.

Undersheriff Clay Myers clarified statements made by Rev. Shalom Agtarap and explained that ICE never referred to the individuals picked up as "hardened criminals". He indicated that language was actually used during one of the meetings after the raid that took place at the church. He gave examples of how the new software is supposed to work. He explained that this new software is not perfect yet, but it is a good start.

Richard Hartwell expressed concern about the raid. He stated that he felt this was a bigger issue than immigration. He encouraged the Board and the Sheriff to read everything they can find regarding incidents like the one on January 20, 2011, as well as anything that pertains to immigration, etc. before they make any decisions.

Undersheriff Clay Myers stated that the goal of the Sheriff's was to make sure the information is used appropriately. He explained that right now they are trying to accomplish a "secure community" and at the same time appease everyone so that everyone is pleased with the language and the reporting requirements.

Rev. Shalom Agrarap expressed her frustration with the approach used for the January 20, 2011 raid. She stated that it gave the message of "hardened criminals" with the production that was put on.


Sheriff Dana explained that this is a volunteer program and that the software can be turned on and off easily. He stated that if there is abuse of the software and the information, it will be shut off. Undersheriff Myers stated that these are tools are to protect the community, but the impression he is taking from this meeting is that the community wants tools to protect them from ICE.


There was discussion on how to make the software more of a valuable tool. The Board also asked about a 6 month report to get feedback on how the software is working.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Mandy Robinson


Paul Jewell, Chairman