

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

FRIDAY

10:30 A.M.

MARCH 31, 2010

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Brent Bottoms, Deputy Prosecutor; Gregg Hall, City Manager for Cle Elum; Darryl Ellis, Upper District Court Judge and Greg Zempel, Prosecutor.

SPECIAL MEETING

UPPER DISTRICT COURT

COMMISSIONERS

At 10:30 a.m. Chairman Mark McClain opened a special meeting to discuss the future of Upper District Court. Commissioner Crankovich said the County has been paying approximately \$100,000.00 in rent each year to lease the building that currently houses the Upper District Court and the City of Cle Elum Police Department. He said the Upper District Court has been in existence since 1976 and was surprised the County still did not own its own building. The Re-Districting committee was asked to meet and discuss options of possibly combining the Upper and Lower District Courts. After the committees review, they issued a recommendation to not change the current structure of the judicial districts.

Chairman McClain felt the County needed to get it fixed and determine what can be done with the outstanding debt owed to the County from the City of Cle Elum. Commissioner Crankovich said he was surprised the County has been paying rent on a building at over \$100,000 per year since the mid-seventies and they have never built anything of their own. Gregg Hall said they pay \$2,899.00 per month for the Police Department to be housed in the building, and they are prepared to pay for that. Commissioner Jewell said it was a purely a cost issue and that re-districting could have significant savings, while realizing there would be additional costs involved in improvements. There was discussion of if there was a requirement of holding a public hearing to determine if the Board should accept the recommendation of the Re-districting committee. Greg Zempel suggested holding a public hearing to finish the process since the committee had been called to meet and issued a formal recommendation, as they have done in the past. The Board said they would agree to hold a public hearing to accept the Districting committee's recommendation to not change the judicial districts. Commissioner Jewell indicated he would like to have a cost recovery

analysis done by the Auditor's office and to give notice to the City of Cle Elum that there is a need to re-negotiate a contract with them.

Commissioner Jewell moved to authorize the Prosecutors office to serve a 90 day notice of termination to the City of Cle Elum, unless an agreement is reached for municipal court services; to direct the Auditor's office to conduct a cost recovery analysis and to have the Prosecutors office work with the City of Cle Elum on a lease extension on the Law & Justice facility in the Upper County. Commissioner Crankovich seconded. Motion carried 3-0.


Commissioner Jewell felt compelled to look at all options in the best interest of the public, recognizing change may not be a popular one. Greg Zempel felt it may end up costing more money in the end if the two Courts were combined for the costs relating to time and travel for officers, etc. to come down from the Upper County. Commissioner Jewell said the Board needs to make a long term decision by either building their own facility or move the Upper County District Court. Chairman McClain felt the County needed to look at 20 years from now and that a facility of their own may be the best. Commissioner Crankovich agreed due to the population growth the Upper County was seeing. Commissioner Crankovich offered to be the point person in working with the cities of Cle Elum and Roslyn.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Julie Kjorsvik


Mark McClain, Chairman