

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

MONDAY

10:00 A.M.

OCTOBER 25, 2010

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Judy Pless, Budget & Finance Manager; Joyce Julsrud, Clerk; Deanna Panattoni, Treasurer; Megan Acree, Administrative Assistant; Patti Johnson, Solid Waste Director; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Tip Hudson, Extension Agent; Mandy Weed, Administrative Assistant; Kirk Holmes, Public Works/Interim Community Development Services Department; Kathy Jurgens, Finance Manager; Amber Simon, Business Manager; Lisa Young, Interim Human Resource Director; Linda Navare & James Rivard Interim Public Health Co-Directors; Sarah Keith, Administrative Assistant; Todd Davis, Noxious Weed Director; Robin Raap, Office Administrator; Candace Hooper, Deputy Prosecutor; Gene Dana, Sheriff; Brenda Larson, Fire Marshal; Jim Goeben, Application Development Manager; James Hurson, District Court Commissioner; Marsha Weyand, Assessor; Thomas Haven, District Court Judge; Christine Luvera, District Court Administrator; Diana MacKenzie, District Court Administrator; Ellis Nale, Corporal; William Holmes, Probation Services Director; Michael Cooper, Superior Court Judge; Duke Senter, Information Services Director; Matt Anderson, Facilities Maintenance Director; Sue Higginbotham, Administrative Assistant and Clayton Myers, Undersheriff.

SPECIAL MEETING

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

COMMISSIONERS

At 10:00 a.m. Chairman McClain opened a special meeting to discuss the 2011 County budget. Judge Haven felt the Board should conduct an analysis to see where each department was 5 years ago and look at those who have grown and those who haven't and see if the increase in staffing is still necessary. He felt a targeted approach of reductions would be more appropriate, rather than just a reduction across the board for all departments. Commissioner Jewell said the Board has taken that approach the past couple of years.

Judy Pless, Budget & Finance Manager noted that salaries and benefits were 60% of the entire budget. The Board asked Ms. Pless to go back and take a look at the 2005 and 2009 actual budget figures. She said she would need to back out the one-time expenses (grants, etc.) and it would take her approximately one week to do.

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APPROVED
11/16/2010

Ms. Pless reviewed the figures that were presented at the last budget meeting and said the budget was still out of balance by \$1,512,154. She noted the budget still included a 12% increase for medical and a 2% wage increase for all non-union and exempt employees. The savings by holding the line on medical contributions alone would be \$172,044.00 (with the exception to a couple of the Union contracts). Departments shared feedback they received from their employees on the possibilities of implementing a wage increase; no increase in medical contributions and furlough days. It was noted there was no clerical union representative present at the meeting because staffing was short. Chairman McClain felt the County has reached the "new normal" and everyone must realize they cannot continue on the same path. He said although it's not a popular decision to reduce the size of staffing, the County cannot make enough of an impact by just taking out travel, training, etc.

Commissioner Jewell said he was in favor of freezing the amount of medical contributions to employees. Commissioner Crankovich said although he does not want to give that up, he doesn't believe they will be able to continue to keep up with the increase costs in insurance rates. Chairman McClain said he was not in favor of that and felt it was the wrong way to go.

Departments reviewed additional cuts they could make to their budgets along with some additional revenue.

Commissioner Jewell said he went through everyone's budget and found some ways of cutting in various areas ranging in amounts between \$100 to \$10,000, for an additional savings of approximately \$300,000. He also expressed concerns he had with the significant costs for software maintenance. He said he would email out his proposed cuts to each department and if they had any questions he would be happy to go over his figures with them.

Debbie DeSoer representing the City of Ellensburg library, distributed information regarding the costs per capita. Marsha Weyand, Assessor, said if they are going to look at core services, unfortunately libraries are not mandatory, although they do provide good services to County residents.

The Board encouraged departments to communicate with their employees that the medical contributions will stay at \$675.46 per employee. Everyone was asked to look into additional cuts and the Board will have to go from there at that time. The Board also noted that everything is still on the table with the exception of benefits, which had to be decided because open enrollment is scheduled for next week. Lisa Young, Interim Human Resource Director said she

could communicate that information to all employees by tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD


Julie Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Mark McClain, Chairman