

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

FRIDAY

1:30 P.M.

NOVEMBER 5, 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; Deanna Panattoni, Treasurer; Tip Hudson, Extension Agent; Matt Anderson, Facilities Maintenance Director; Brenda Larsen, Fire Marshal; Gene Dana, Sheriff; Kathy Jurgens, Finance Systems Manager; Sarah Keith, Administrative Assistant; Diana MacKenzie, Upper District Court Administrator; Mandy Weed, Administrative Assistant; Amber Simon, Business Manager; Jim Goeben, Application Development Manager; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; William Holmes, Probation Services Director; Don Boxford, Union Representative; Christine Luvera, Lower District Court Administrator; Sue Higginbotham, Administrative Assistant; James Hurson, Court Commissioner; James Rivard, Interim Public Health Co-Administrator; Marsha Weyand, Assessor; Clayton Myers, Undersheriff; Megan Acree, Administrative Assistant; Patti Johnson, Solid Waste Director; Linda Navarre, Interim Public Health Co-Administrator; Greg Zempel, Prosecutor; Wayne Johnson, Teamsters; Robin Raap, Office Administrator; Bob Gubser, Commander; Kirk Holmes, Public Works/Interim Community Development Services Director; Thomas Haven, Lower District Court Judge; Kelly Carlson, Administrative Assistant/Airport Manager.

SPECIAL MEETING

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

COMMISSIONERS

At 1:30 p.m. Chairman McClain opened a special meeting to discuss the 2011 County budget.

Commissioner Crankovich explained how he had spent the last two days in meetings regarding the insurance pool. He indicated that the pool plans will no longer be available to county employees after the end of the year. He said open enrollment has been extended until December 1, 2010 and employees would be able to obtain other insurance, as long as it does not have a higher deductible than the highest deductible that is offered by the county.

Judy Pless, Budget & Finance Manager indicated the budget is still out of balance by approximately \$630,000.00 which does not include a beginning fund balance, but does include a \$500,000 levy shift. She reviewed a comparison of departmental budget expenses and their

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personnel between 2005 and 2009. Wayne Johnson, representing the Teamsters Union, said there could possibly be Teamsters insurance offered to other employees in the future, which would result in more cost effective, composite plans. He said he would talk to Lisa Young in Human Resources about the possibility. Don Boxford, Staff Representative for the Union said the largest question from members is wondering how much the county is out of balance. William Holmes suggested taking another \$500,000 levy shift and split the remaining amount of percentage between departments. Greg Zempel and William Holmes said employees in their departments would rather see wages frozen or furlough days rather than lose people. Commissioner Jewell said he would not support furlough days and felt it would only be a temporary fix to the problems. Mr. Boxford said furloughs have worked in the State, but if wages were frozen the county would eventually end up playing catch up. Kathy Jurgens explained how the levy shift was not just a matter of shifting money because their department has also been experiencing a drop in revenue in all areas. Kirk Holmes noted the Public Works Department has had multiple positions go unfilled over the past couple of years. The Board discussed whether to amend the contribution to medical due to the 5% increase.

Commissioner Jewell suggested taking an additional \$250,000 levy shift; to ask the unions for a wage freeze from their employees and for departments go back and look at their budgets once again to see where the rest of the funds could come from.

There were discussions on the county's annual contribution to libraries. The Board agreed the furloughs days were off the table and would not be considered. The Unions agreed to try and get back to the Board by November 15th. They agreed to meet on Tuesday November 9th at 1:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Auditorium to discuss the remaining \$160,000 which is still outstanding in order to balance the budget. They encouraged the Management Team members to send them an email with any ideas for additional cuts prior to November 9th.

The Board said they would commit \$250,000 to a levy shift and not diversion because it would tie it specifically to the Sheriff's Department.

The meeting was adjourned 3:45 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Julie Kjosrvik


Mark McClain, Chairman