

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

TUESDAY

1:30 P.M.

AUGUST 10, 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; Stephanie Happold, Deputy Prosecutor and Darlene Mainwaring, Director/E911 Coordinator.

SPECIAL MEETING

E911 EXCISE TAX

COMMISSIONERS

At 1:30 p.m. Chairman McClain opened a special meeting to receive information regarding Substitute Senate Bill 6846 which was passed by the State Legislature.

Darlene Mainwaring, Director/E911 Coordinator, reviewed SSB 6846 for Enhanced 911 Emergency Community Services to become effective January 1, 2011. The Bill is to improve technology for KITTCOM's 1960's legacy analog equipment and to provide the ability to receive digital data they cannot currently receive (texts, photos and videos). She said texting is important for the deaf and hearing impaired community which there is approximately 650,000 of them in Washington State. The Bill will increase the 911 excise tax from the current maximum of 50 cents per access line collected locally and 20 cents by the state to 70 cents and 25 cents respectively. In order for Kittitas County to increase the local excise taxes, the current county ordinance would need to be modified and the excise tax for Voice over Internet Protocol will need to be included. If the County did not change the ordinance there are ramifications including losing the existing funding from the State and KITTCOM would not be able to maintain their level of services and would be forced to offset the revenue through the User Fees of the agencies they serve.

The Board of Commissioners expressed their frustrations of being forced by the State to impose taxes to the citizens of Kittitas County, and if they do not do it, there would be implications of losing funding. Chairman McClain said he would like to find a way to challenge it, but noted how KITTCOM is valuable and would not want them to lose State funding.

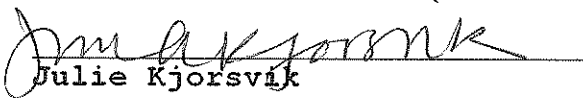
APPROVED
9/7/2010

Stephanie Happold, Deputy Prosecutor said the Board was not alone with their frustrations. She said she has been in contact with other County Prosecutors and they have been coming up with proposed language changes, since the Agreement has not been completely finalized yet by the Department of Revenue.


Ms. Happold said the Board of County Commissioners will need to hold a public hearing to consider the increased taxes, and the type of tax is not one that needs to go on a ballot. The deadline for counties to approve the tax is in October of 2010. Ms. Happold will work with Ms. Mainwaring and set a public hearing in the near future for the Boards consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD


Julie Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Mark McClain, Chairman