

Kittitas County Prosecutor

Agenda Staff Report

AGENDA DATE:

3/20/2012

ACTION REQUESTED:

The Prosecuting Attorney's office is seeking approval and signatures from the Board to enter into a year-long contract with Dr. Carl Wigren to provide forensic pathological services (autopsies) for our office in our capacity as the County Coroner.

BACKGROUND:

Historically, budgeting sufficient finances for autopsies has been extremely difficult due to the uncertainty of knowing year-to-year how many coroner cases will need an autopsy. To date, the office has paid various forensic pathologists on a per-case basis, with the autopsy fee ranging from \$1150 to \$1500. Just this past year (2011) the office paid for more than 20 autopsies. In the previous 5 years the office averaged 16 autopsies per year.

INTERACTION:

Dr. Wigren approached the Prosecutor's office at the end of 2011 with the idea of providing a year's worth of autopsies for single lump sum amount, giving both offices budget certainty and reduction in our cost. After significant research and negotiations, the Prosecutor's office and Dr. Wigren have reached an agreement that achieves these goals

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board approve and sign the contract.

HANDLING:

Greg Zempel, Neil Caulkins and Robin Rapp are all knowledgeable about this matter. At least one of them will be attending the Study Session on 3/19/12.

LEAD STAFF:

Paul Sander