

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

TUESDAY

3:30 P.M.

APRIL 4, 2017

Board members present: Chairman Paul Jewell; Vice-Chairman Laura Osiadacz and Commissioner Obie O'Brien.

Others: Mandy Buchholz, Deputy Clerk of the Board II; Jim Goeben, IT Director; Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board. Guests by Phone: Commissioner Edna Fund - Lewis County and Rachel Hunt, Staff Member Lewis County Commissioners Office.

SPECIAL MEETING

BOCC - FACEBOOK

COMMISSIONERS

At 3:30 p.m. Chairman Jewell opened a Special Meeting to consider creating an Official County Commissioners Facebook Page. He stated that he would turn the meeting over to Commissioner Osiadacz as she requested the meeting.

Commissioner Osiadacz introduced Lewis County Commissioner Edna Fund and Lewis County Commissioner Staff member Rachel Hunt. She explained that her reason for asking Commissioner Fund to call in for the meeting is that Lewis County has an extremely successful Facebook Page. She felt Commissioner Fund could contribute to the conversation by sharing what they have learned through the process as well as the unexpected benefits that have come from using the application to push information out to their constituents. Commissioner Fund explained that they have used Facebook as a recruitment tool as well as to get the Commissioners stories/events out in their words with accurate information. Commissioner Osiadacz explained why this avenue would be effective. She provided statistics on age groups and how they receive their information. She explained that it's her desire to provide the most transparent government possible to the citizens of Kittitas County. She stated that there are currently 7 County Facebook Pages and the County has policy on how to address the use of it.

The Board asked if Staff had any concerns, or input they wanted considered.

Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board expressed concerns regarding how we would handle public records requests; how it would be determined what would be published; as well as who would be responsible for monitoring and responding to the comments received. She suggested that the posting be a responsibility of the Chair of the Board so it would rotate and follow whoever was the Chairperson for the year. She explained that it would be similar to at the first of each year

the Board selects its Department Heads they plan to oversee and Committee's to sit on representing the County. She stated that the County website is great and has everything on it already.

Jim Goeben, IT Director explained that he has mixed feelings. He stated from a records management standpoint he feels it's very risky as he has the potential risks discussed around him all the time. However from an informational standpoint he sees the potential benefit.

Commissioner O'Brien explained that he had previously brought up the topic a few years ago and after discussion and review at that time the Board determined there were too many "unknowns" and opted out of doing a Facebook Page. He stated that he still is not in favor of it and in addition to the risks and liability it creates extra work for Staff that already have a big work load.

Chairman Jewell stated that he is extremely cautious when it comes to this topic. He stated that he feels as though it has potential to open a can of worms and the County needs assurance that the risks can be mitigated. He felt there are questions that still need to be addressed for example who monitors the page, how often and how it will be determined what content is posted. He felt that in itself will require a Special Meeting to decide what will be posted etc. He explained that he can see a benefit when there are emergencies going on and needing to get accurate facts out. He explained that he would like to support Commissioner Osiadacz, but for now he needs some of the stated unknowns and concerns addressed before he could.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


Mandy Buchholz

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Paul Jewell, Chairman