

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

TUESDAY

1:00 P.M.

MARCH 7, 2023

Board members present: Chairman Cory Wright; Vice-Chairman Brett Wachsmith; and Commissioner Laura Osiadacz.

Others: Mandy Buchholz, Office Administrator and Joe Poire, JRP Integrated Solutions (via Webex); Mark Cook, Public Works Director; Doug Fessler, IT Director.

SPECIAL MEETING

BROADBAND

COMMISSIONERS

At 1:00 p.m. Chairman Wright opened a Special Meeting to discuss Broadband Construction and Management of Operation.

Joe Poire, JRP Integrated Solutions, reviewed the background on the Broadband project dating back to the pandemic and how that period has impacted everyone with a need for higher demand for internet stability for everyone's livelihood with millions working, going to school and staying home, which has not declined after the pandemic the need is still just as high.

He reviewed what metrics are looked at for the grant application for best scoring; as well as what projects were awarded previously through the Public Works Board 2021 grant award cycle. He stressed the importance of affordable broadband and that it was a consistent takeaway throughout the previous Broadband Action Team (B.A.T) Meetings.

The Board discussed the different processes they could take through the RFP process and whether the County would want to own the facility and or run it or not or what their preferred route was while also considering the risks of each.

The Board chose to go with the Public Works RFP for Design and Construction Procurement Process. The Board directed Staff to set up a follow up meeting the following week to allow further discussion due to the tight timeline they were up against. Director Cook stated he would finish the RFP in time for that meeting.

Commissioner Osiadacz expressed her frustration with regard to the process and feeling like they were left with no choice due to the timeline and stressed that future projects will not be handled this way.

APPROVED

4-4-23

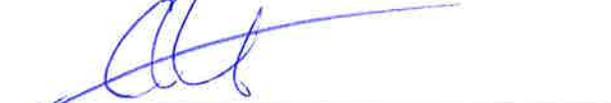
The meeting was concluded at 2:06 p.m.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR



Mandy Buchholz

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Cory Wright, Chairman