COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON AUDITORIUM SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 6, 2024

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Mandy Buchholz, Office Administrator; Ben Kokjer, Josh Fredrickson, Engineer; Mark Cook, Public Works/CDS Director; Stephanie Hartung, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor; and 5 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

SPEED KITTITAS HWY

PUBLIC WORKS

At 2:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** opened a Public Hearing to consider a speed reduction on Kittitas Highway between Ellensburg City Limits and No. 6 Road and to Amend the Kittitas County Code Chapter 10.08 Speed Limits on County Roads.

JOSH FREDRICKSON, ENGINEER reviewed a Staff Report for both Public Hearings, since they are tied together. He covered the background, fiscal impacts, speed studies, and their recommendations. STEPHANIE HARTUNG, CHIEF CIVIL DEPUTY PROSECUTOR said in terms of liability, now that it's been brought to the Boards attention, and has met criteria, they need to consider working on options.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: JERRY PETTIT said he wasn't in favor of the proposal or against it, but if the Board approved lowering the speed limit, it would allow ATV's to be on the roadway. MICAH BRUNNER suggested starting the 35 MPH speed limit on Broadview Road for a year or two, and if there are still more accidents, then go to the next step, but at least give it a try. JEFF LEICHLEITER said he was not necessarily in favor of a 4-way stop right as of right now and questioned if there's been a difference in the number of accidents since the installation of the traffic lights. PAT KELLEHER opposed both the speed reduction and installation of stop signs. He recommended a roundabout, as it's worked in other areas. DARRYL EASON explained how people have difficulty with seeing oncoming traffic due to fences and other things that are on County property. THERE BEING NO OTHERS REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT moved to continue the Public Hearing until after the next Public Hearing. **VICE-CHAIRMAN OSIADACZ** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.



PUBLIC HEARING SPEED & ALL-WAY STOP - KITTITAS HWY PUBLIC WORKS

At 2:30 p.m. **CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** opened a Public Hearing to consider a speed reduction on No. 6 Road between Vantage Highway and Kittitas Highway and to Amend Kittitas County Code Chapter 10.08 Speed Limits on County Roads and to consider an All-Way Stop at the Intersection of Kittitas Highway and No. 6 Road and to Amend Kittitas County Code Chapter 10.12.010.

JOSH FREDRICKSON, ENGINEER, reviewed a Staff Report including the background, fiscal impacts, and the speed study that was conducted,

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: JERRY PETTIT felt it was one of the scariest intersections in the County, but noted if the speed is reduced to 35 MPH it would allow for ATV's to be on the roadway. PAT KELLEHER felt the proposal would not do anything or correct any issues. He said it's a unique intersection and questioned why the accidents are happening. THERE BEING NO OTHERS REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

STEPHANIE HARTUNG, CHIEF CIVIL DEPUTY PROSECUTOR spoke of the mitigating factors and how the process shouldn't be stopped, but the County needs to continue trying to find the best possible solution, as they've been on notice for a while.

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT moved to remand it back to Staff to do a study on the effects of the current traffic controls that were put into place, and to schedule another Public Hearing for September 17, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. and report back to the Board of County Commissioners of their findings. **VICE-CHAIRMAN OSIADACZ** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

SPEED KITTITAS HWY

PUBLIC WORKS

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT moved to deny the request for a speed reduction on Kittitas Highway between Ellensburg City Limits and No. 6 Road and to Amend the Kittitas County Code Chapter 10.08 Speed Limits on County Roads, and to schedule another Public Hearing to be held on September 17, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., in combination with the other request for a Speed Reduction on No. 6 Road between Vantage Highway and Kittitas Highway and to Amend Kittitas County Code Chapter 10.08 Speed Limits on County Roads and to consider an All-Way Stop at the Intersection of Kittitas Highway and No. 6 Road. VICE-CHAIRMAN OSIADACZ seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting was concluded at 2:47 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Julie Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Brett Wachsmith, Chairman