TUESDAY                  4:00 P.M.         JANUARY 4, 2005

Board members present:  Chairman Perry D. Huston, Vice-Chairman David Bowen & Commissioner Alan Crankovich.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Gene Dana, Sheriff; Greg Zempel, Prosecutor; William Holmes, Probation Services Director; Clayton Myers, Undersheriff; Bert Marx, Sheriff’s Department; and approximately 15 members of the public.

At approximately 4:00 p.m. CHAIRMAN HUSTON opened a public hearing to consider

GENE DANA, SHERIFF gave a recitation of the history of the Law and Justice Center site. He urged the Board to not relinquish the sites, claiming they will be needed for the future. He felt it was important to have the surrounding properties available at the time something has to be done about the current jail facility.

THOSE PRESENT AND TESTIFYING:  FREDERICK KRUEGER read a letter into the record (Exhibit 1). He felt there is linkage between remodeling the existing jail facility and the construction of a new jail facility and that any future citizen’s advisory committee should be given parameters by the Commissioners to include that issue in their written report along with the new facility proposal. JEFF SLOTHOWER representing himself encouraged the Board to not dispose of property that had been acquired, claiming it would be doing the citizens a disservice. He felt the County could never put the properties together again, especially for the cost they obtained them for.

JAMES PIDDICK speaking as a member of the Law & Justice Council and as a county resident supported retaining the ownership of the property. He explained the current jail was extremely overcrowded with unsafe conditions, stating that something needed be done soon to correct the problem. He felt the County needed to reserve the option to build in the future. PAUL BENNETT felt the Board should retain the property and to remove the structures on the sites. He explained that if the County were to decide to build at another location other than the current site, they should first obtain that property, and then sell what they currently have. DESMOND KNUDSON urged the Board to retain the property. STAN BLAZINSKI felt the Board should have the public hearing in the evening so people could
provide more input. He said he would stay neutral on the property issue. CHARLES WEIDENBACH felt it would be in the best interest of the County to retain the property. CLAY MYERS, UNDERSHERIFF encouraged the Board to continue forward with the demolition of structures on the sites. He felt the need to change the strategy to get more citizen involvement to modify the plan. THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

CHAIRMAN HUSTON said a Call for Bids to demolish the structures on the sites prompted the public hearing by the previous Board of Commissioners. He noted grant funds were obtained for the site preparation and demolition of structures. He felt there was a need to keep the current sites, which had been chosen through a process of the Citizens Advisory Committee. He said by stabilizing the site and removing the buildings with the funds available, it would be consistent with what was proposed to the voters. He encouraged those citizens who are interested in the process would participate and bring their ideas forward in future discussions. He said he doesn’t know the answer to why the issue failed on the ballot and that there would be meetings in the future to hear what the public wants as a solution. COMMISSIONER BOWEN noted for the record that the Citizens Advisory Committee held their meetings in the evening. He spoke in favor of retaining the property and said in order to reduce liability, regardless of the use, the structures currently on the properties needed to be demolished. COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH agreed with the concerns of liability and to move forward with the demolition. He explained that if the County were to sell the properties, they may not be able to get them back in the future, as well as for the price that the County had paid for them.

CHAIRMAN HUSTON moved to retain the properties and direct staff to prepare a Notice of Call for Bids for demolition of the structures on the sites, to be placed on the January 18, 2005 Commissioners Agenda at 2:00 p.m. COMMISSIONER BOWEN seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Julie A. Kjorsvik

Perry D. Huston, Chairman

01/04/2005 MINUTES 2