COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY 4:00 P.M. APRIL 5, 2005

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Paul Bennett, Director of Public Works; Ryan Roberts, Public Works Staff; Jennifer Steward, Public Work Staff; Shannon Carlson, Deputy Clerk of the Board and approximately 6 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING WESTERN TOWN & GOLD BUCKLE FAIR

At approximately 4:00 p.m. CHAIRMAN HUSTON opened a public hearing to consider rental fees for Western Town and the Gold Buckle Club at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds.

SANDE DeSALLES, FAIR DIRECTOR reviewed the proposed rental fees for the Gold Buckle building and Western Town. She said she researched fee structures and evaluated prices of like-size facilities and had conferred with the Ellensburg Rodeo Association on the proposed rates. She said they did not receive any negative comments on the proposed increase in rental fees. THERE BEING NO PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

RESOLUTION 2005-53 WESTERN TOWN & GOLD BUCKLE FAIR

COMMISSIONER BOWEN moved to approve Resolution No. 2005-53, for the Rental Fees for Western Town and the Gold Buckle at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds, effective April 5, 2005. COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING OPEN SPACE TIMBER APPLICATIONS COMMISSIONERS

At approximately 4:11 p.m. CHAIRMAN HUSTON opened a public hearing to consider requests for reclassification as Open Space Land for Current Use Tax Assessment under the Open Space Taxation Act.

SHANNON CARLSON, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD reviewed the Open Space Timber application requests from Arun and Vicki Gore; David W. Ewing and Sharyln K. St. Hilaire. She said the appropriate application fees had been paid and included Forest Management Plans. She urged
the Board to approve the requests and authorize the Chair to sign
the appropriate taxation agreements.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: PHIL HESS, CONSULTING FORESTER said he
had prepared the Forest Management Plans. He spoke in support of
the requests and said he would be happy to answer any questions the
Board may have. THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY, THE PUBLIC
PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

The Board felt the applications complete and in compliance with the
appropriate requirements.

COMMISSIONER BOWEN moved to approve the following Open Space Timber
Application requests and to authorize the Chair to sign the
appropriate Taxation Agreements: Sharlyn K. St. Hilaire (20-16-
David W. Ewing (20-14-12040-0008) and Vickie & Arun Gore (21-14-
35000-0011). COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING STOP & YIELD SIGNS PUBLIC WORKS

At approximately 4:20 p.m. CHAIRMAN HUSTON opened a public hearing
to consider revisions of the Kittitas County Code Chapter 10.12.010
"Stop & Yield Signs" located in Maintenance Districts "E" & "F"
which includes the South Central Areas of Kittitas County.

JENNIFER STEWARD, PUBLIC WORKS STAFF reviewed an Engineer’s Report
and the proposed amendments to Kittitas County Code Chapter
10.12.010. She said the proposed Ordinance would replace the Yield
signs on the roads in Maintenance Districts E & F with Stop Signs
that do not meet the requirements listed in the current Manual on
Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and the American Association
of State Highways and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). She said
Maintenance Districts E & F had been chosen to be the fifth area to
be thoroughly analyzed. PAUL BENNETT, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
recommended that the Board amend the proposed Ordinance.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: MATT DOUGLAS said he did not know if it
would help by replacing the Yield sign with a Stop sign at Kerr
Road. THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF
THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

COMMISSION BOWEN recognized the concerns and said the County must
comply with the standards.
ORDINANCE 2005-13 STOP & YIELD SIGNS PUBLIC WORKS

COMMISSIONER BOWEN moved to approve Ordinance No. 2005-13, Placing Stop Signs in Districts E & F (South Central Area of Kittitas County) at intersections that do not conform to MUTCD and AASHTO Standards for Yield Signs and Amending Section 10.12.010 of the Kittitas County Code. COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH seconded.

COMMISSIONER BOWEN moved to amend Ordinance No. 2005-13, by striking Robbins Road at Robbins Wye Road. COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2005-13, as amended, and to direct staff to prepare enabling documents to be on the April 19, 2005 Commissioner Agenda at 2:00 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING CHARTER CABLE FRANCHISE PUBLIC WORKS

At approximately 4:34 p.m. CHAIRMAN HUSTON opened a public hearing to consider granting a franchise with Falcon Video Communications, L.P. d/b/a Charter Communications for a County-Wide Cable Television Franchise.

PAUL BENNETT, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR reviewed his staff report. He said Charter Communications had requested a Countywide Franchise agreement to offer cable services to the residents of Kittitas County. The franchise would replace numerous area specific franchises currently in place. The franchise would grant non-exclusive use of the County road right-of-way for the installation of utilities required to provide cable service. The franchise provides language that would allow the Commissioners to collect a fee equal to 5% of gross revenue.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: RANDALL LEE representing Charter Cable said they had submitted a copy of an agreement to Mr. Bennett earlier in the afternoon. Mr. Bennett had not had a chance to review it yet. PETRA REDCHUK representing Charter Cable also wanted their proposed language to be reviewed by the County prior to the Board making their decision. CHAIRMAN HUSTON explained the request was to use the County right-of-way only, and it was non-exclusive and anyone could come to the County and apply for the same. DAVID BLACK, PRESIDENT/OWNER OF SNOQALMIE PASS CABLE T.V. requested the Board to continue the public hearing since he had not seen the staff report and proposed agreement. He referenced the staff report submitted by Public Works on March 1, 2005, with reference to a County wide Franchise. He urged the Board to deny the request.
FRED MARRION said Charter Cable had numerous Code violations and he had contacted Labor & Industries. He was concerned with their safety standards as well, noting they only had minimal insurance. NATHAN WISE, REPRESENTING INLAND CABLE shared similar concerns and the amount of debt accrued by Charter. He said Inland was interested in obtaining the fiber as well. BETH MARKER REPRESENTING THE CITY OF CLE ELUM said they had concerns with Charters performance and programming and the lack of local access. She felt their financial stature was important. JAMES BROOKS FROM INLAND TELEPHONE said they had not received the documents prior to the hearing and would like additional time to review.

CHAIRMAN HUSTON suggested continuing the hearing until May 17th. He requested the following documents to be presented by staff for the May 3rd Commissioner Agenda: visual maps of all existing franchises within the County; an updated Franchise Agreement and an updated Staff Report. He also requested a staff report with a red-lined agreement, and for copies of those documents to go out before May 3, 2005.

CHAIRMAN HUSTON moved to continued the public hearing for purposes of receiving documents as directed to staff, issuing a notice for public testimony to be taken on May 17, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. Record to remain open. COMMISSIONER BOWEN seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.