COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY 4:00 P.M. MAY 17, 2005

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Kelly Carlson, Administrative Assistant Public Works Department; Joy Potter, Public Works Staff; and approximately 5 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING CABLE FRANCHISE PUBLIC WORKS

At approximately 4:00 p.m. CHAIRMAN HUSTON opened the continued public hearing (from May 3, 2005) to consider a County Wide Franchise with Charter Communications for Cable service.

KELLY CARLSON, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS gave a staff report. She explained that due to the County not meeting the legal publication requirements, she recommended that the Board continue the hearing until June 7, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN HUSTON moved to continue the public hearing until Tuesday June 7, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Auditorium, Room 109, County Courthouse to consider public testimony. COMMISSIONER BOWEN seconded. Motion carried 3-0. It was noted that the written record would be also be open up until the time of the hearing on June 7th.

PUBLIC HEARING STOP & YIELD SIGNS PUBLIC WORKS

At approximately 4:03 p.m. CHAIRMAN HUSTON opened a public hearing to consider amending Kittitas County Code Chapter 10.12.010 (Stop & Yield Designated) with the removal and replacement of Yield Signs on roads in Districts C & D to Stop Signs.

JENNIFER STEWARD, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT STAFF reviewed the Engineer’s Report and proposed revisions in Districts C and D. She said Kittitas County had various intersections with Yield signs posted. She explained that the current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has specific guidelines that must be adhered to for the correct placement of yield signs. Following an on-sight inspection of each intersection, an analysis
was completed reviewing the sight distance triangle, accident history, and speed and traffic volumes.

**THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: CHRIS CAVIEZEL** said he was unclear of what the notice was, when received it in the mail from the Public Works Department. He wanted to ensure that the County Engineer took the heavy snowfall into consideration in Snoqualmie Pass area because sometimes some of the roads don’t get plowed. **DAVID BANKSON** testified relating to the roads within the upper part of the Hyak area, and felt there should not be any changes made to them. **THERE BEING NO FURTHER TESTIMONY THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**MS. STEWARD** clarified each of the proposed Yield signs of which were to be changed to Stop signs.

Commissioner Bowen acknowledged the review was conducted to ensure the County is in compliance with requirements and for liability purposes.

**ORDINANCE 2005-19 STOP & YIELD SIGNS PUBLIC WORKS**

**COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** moved to approve Ordinance No. 2005-19, Placing Stop Signs in Districts C & D (Northwest 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 BOWEN** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING AIRPORT LEASE PUBLIC WORKS**

At approximately 4:17 p.m. a public hearing was opened to consider an addendum to an Airport property lease for approximately 6868.55 Square Feet of airport property located within the Aeronautical area at the Kittitas County Airport (Bowers Field).

**KELLY CARLSON, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** presented a staff report. She said James and John Libenow have a private hangar located on approximately 6868.55 square feet of leased Airport property within the Aeronautical area. The addendum provided for an increase in rental rates, and an additional paragraph relating to Fire Protection Assessment. **THERE BEING NO ONE INTERESTED IN TESTIFYING, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**
COMMISSIONER BOWEN moved to approve an Addendum to a Lease between Kittitas County and James Libenow and John Libenow, for the period June 1, 2005 through May 31, 2010. COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At approximately 4:23 p.m. CHAIRMAN HUSTON opened a public hearing to consider granting a Non-exclusive Irrigation Franchise on Pfenning Road near the Northeast Corner of Third Street and Pfenning.

KELLY CARLSON, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT presented staff report. She explained there was an existing irrigation ditch on the east side of Pfenning Road just north of Thrid Avenue, which supplies water from the Ellensburg Water Company Canal to individuals along Pfenning Road. The portion of the delivery system upstream had been previously buried in a pipe. The 60 foot section would be buried to the irrigation cross pipe under Third Avenue. She said by burying the last section of open ditch it would eliminate another roadside hazard in the county right-of-way. She recommended the Board approve the proposed Irrigation Franchise with Stanley Blazynski.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: STAN BLAZINSKI explained that the dangerous ditch had been removed. He submitted a letter from Guy Courture into the record dated May 15, 2005 along with copies of photographs of the site. He urged the Board to support the proposed Irrigation Franchise. THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH said it is always a benefit to the County when hazards can be eliminated within the right-of-ways. COMMISSIONER BOWEN spoke in favor of the Irrigation Franchise.

COMMISSIONER BOWEN moved to approve an Irrigation Franchise with Stanley B. Blazynski for Tax Parcel Number 17-19-06020-0022. COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
At approximately 4:26 p.m. CHAIRMAN HUSTON opened a public hearing to consider the vacation of a portion of Faust Road right-of-way near the intersection with the John Wayne Trail.

JOY POTTER, PUBLIC WORKS STAFF reviewed a staff report on the proposed vacation of a portion of Faust Road at the Intersection with the John Wayne Trail. She explained the history of the request that was received from the Washington State Parks and Recreation department to vacate the southerly portion of the old Faust Road alignment. She said the request was consistent with the original intent of the safety improvements for Faust Road by the removal of the stitch back curves and the easement recorded between Kittitas County and the State.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: LYNN HARMON REPRESENTING STATE PARKS welcomed the opportunity to complete the agreement with the County which would provide citizens with a quality, safe place. BILL FRASER, REGIONAL PARK PLANNER reviewed the proposed plan for the area stating they had planned on developing a Trailhead facility including parking for equestrian units and single vehicles, as well as a picnic facility and restrooms. ART SINCLAIR expressed his confusion with the proposal. He did not understand the promises that were made by the County to State and why they were holding a public hearing years after the promise was made. He did not understand why the County had purchased property when they knew they would have no use for it and then turn around and sell it to the State. LAVONE SINCLAIR said he couldn't find any records relating to the property owner giving or abandoning the right of way that is used for his driveway. ADDIE SINCLAIR expressed concerns of the proposal and said if it were abandoned, there would need to be a turn around made in their front yard for emergency vehicle access. CHERI SINCLAIR opposed the proposal and said she did not want a parking lot in their backyard which would include dumpsters, picnic tables, etc. and was concerned that the area would not be policed appropriately. She said they would purchase the portion of land from County for the same amount that they paid for it. MATT DOUGLAS said he did not want a trailhead in the proposed area, and felt it should be moved to somewhere else.

JOY POTTER said the purchase price was based on project funding and appraised at $4,500 per acre. She noted that through the negotiations the County did not want the remainder of land only right of way, but Mr. Rominger (the previous owner) told County they
either had to purchase all of the land or nothing. She said the right-of-way plans had been done by consultants. She noted that their department could not find any documents as referred to by Sinclair’s. She said the County would put in a turn around, noting the impacts were unknown at this time and that it would be liability of County to ensure that postal service requirements etc. would be met. She said if they used an alternate route, it would cost approximately an additional $10,000.00 to bring the right-of-way up to other side of the trail.

**JIM HARRIS STATE PARKS** explained that the County came to them with the proposal and referenced the intact trail which was being requesting to make Faust Road a safer alignment.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER TESTIMONY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**COMMISSIONER BOWEN** explained how the County is committed to an unobstructed trail and they need to follow through, but if a trailhead was needed, that was a separate subject.

**CHAIRMAN HUSTON** said the County “promised” was a relative term, and that he did not promise anything and did not find that argument compelling. He said if there was a parking area, he didn’t know why there couldn’t be compatible uses other than a mix of traffic.

**COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** said there were several places where they cross and it should be an easy fix, and suggested going along side the road and leading it into where the trail is now. He said there is currently a minimal amount of traffic on there and if willing to purchase property he questioned if they could move trail off the road far enough. He was in favor of looking at other options as well.

**COMMISSIONER BOWEN** said he was not prepared to make a decision today and would like to see what type of Agreement the County has with State Parks. He said he would like staff to pull the record from previous public hearing and adopt that information into the current hearing record, including any discussions between Parks and neighbors.

**CHAIRMAN HUSTON** suggested assigning staff to facilitate discussions with the State and property owners, and to continue the public hearing for status report. He disclosed that he would sit down with Ms. Carlson & Ms. Potter of the Public Works Department to determine work flow to facilitate discussions.
CHAIRMAN HUSTON moved to continue the public hearing until 4:00 p.m. Tuesday June 14, 2005 in the Commissioner’s Auditorium, Room 109, County Courthouse, noting the record would remain open to written comments & staff work product and at that time the Board would determine any additional public comment period. COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Julie A. Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Perry D. Huston, Chairman