COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY                      4:00 P.M.                      SEPTEMBER 6, 2005

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Neil Caulkins Deputy Prosecutor; James Hurson, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Joy Potter, Public Works Staff; Scott Bradshaw, Director of Public Works; Sue Higgenbotham, Elections Supervisor and approximately 8 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING      SPEED LIMIT ON STRANDE ROAD      PUBLIC WORKS

At approximately 4:00 p.m. CHAIRMAN HUSTON opened the public hearing to consider the establishment of a speed zone on Strande Road.

JOY POTTER, PUBLIC WORKS STAFF gave a staff report. She said the Public Works Department conducted traffic studies to analyze a request from the Board of County Commissioners on July 19, 2005. She said there have been no reported accidents on Strande Road in the past three years. She submitted the speed studies analyzed for the traffic conditions and recommended that the Board keep the established speed limit at 50 mph. Subsequent to the engineers report, they put in another tube between Manastash to Susan Road and the average speed was approximately 42 mph. After review they recommended keeping the established speed limit at 50 mph.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING:  BRUCE SKIBENESS was disappointed in the Public Works Department’s recommendation. He felt Strande Road was narrow, old, and rural which has an increased traffic volume due to the new homes being built in the area and the increased construction traffic. He submitted a list including signatures from fifteen of the nineteen people who live on Strande Road who are in support of lowering the speed limit. He requested that the speed limit be lowered before a tragedy happens. GARY BASKIN said he lives on Strande Road and felt the Public Works Department’s placement of traffic speed tests were inaccurate. JEAN SKIBENESS was in support of lowering the speed limit. She felt the current speed was very dangerous because the road is very narrow with no lines on the roadway. SHARON BLANKENSHIP was concerned with the speed limit during the summer while people are hauling hay both day and night.
She was in favor of reducing the speed limit. **THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**COMMISSIONER BOWEN** questioned the criteria for striping roads. **JOY POTTER** said AASHTO references the 85th percentile and most county roads would currently not meet the road standards. The road would need to be 24 feet wide and Strande Road is 22 feet wide to meet the current Road Standards. She reviewed the criteria for striping County Roads and the reasons why Strande Road is not striped.

**COMMISSIONER BOWEN** commented on the increased residents in the area. **COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** felt it was reflective of how the future is going with growth in the County. He commented on the narrow road and its sharp corners. He took into consideration that the County should make some effort to reduce the chance of something tragic happening in the future.

**CHAIRMAN HUSTON** acknowledged the road was not compliant with the road standards just adopted by the Board. He said with the current speed limit posted, no one wants to drive at that rate of speed because it is not comfortable. He felt a reasonable record had been built to support a reduction in the speed limit for the safety of everyone.

**COMMISSIONER BOWEN** said he does not like going against staff’s recommendation, but in this case he would have to support lowering the speed limit.

**CHAIRMAN HUSTON** moved to approve and direct staff to prepare enabling documents for Tuesday September 20, 2005 at the 2:00 p.m. Agenda to reduce the speed limit on Strande Road to 35 mph. **COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** seconded.

**COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** did not feel it would be setting a precedent, but similar issues would be reviewed on a case by case basis.

**CHAIRMAN HUSTON** felt it was a precedent with a road having a curious configuration, and if a speed analysis reflects that people don’t drive speed limit because it’s not comfortable with it, he would take it into account.

Motion carried 3-0.

**CHAIRMAN HUSTON** moved to continue the public hearing until Tuesday September 20, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. noting the record is closed. **COMMISSIONER BOWEN** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
At approximately 4:35 p.m. **CHAIRMAN HUSTON** opened the public hearing to consider a request and petition to form a park and recreation district.

**JERRY PETTIT, AUDITOR** explained that the petitioners had provided the satisfactory number of signatures and those signatures had been certified by his office. He said Resolutions had been received by the cities to allow themselves to be included within the Parks & Recreation District. He explained the boundary as being identified in the Cle Elum/Roslyn School District. **LOUIS MUSSO REPRESENTING THE NORTHERN KITTITAS COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION COALITION** acknowledged they had met the requirements. He reviewed the proposed boundaries and noted they chose not to use the Commissioner District and Hospital District due to the large boundaries.

**THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: JERRY DOWNS** expressed concerns with tax liability and the inclusion of the Swauke Teanaway or Liberty area and what the direct benefits to them be? He suggested using the eastern boundary of the Hospital District. **RICH GRILLO** expressed his support for the proposal. **LILA HANSON** expressed concerns of the proposal. She felt the farming areas and trails were not compatible. She felt by using the Hospital District #1 west boundary and an eastern boundary for the Parks District would be appropriate and possibly use the Teanaway Road or river for the boundary. She felt it should not be extended into the north central county communities of the Swauk Prairie, Lauderdale and Liberty, nor should they be expected to pay for them.

The Board recessed for 5 minutes at 4:55 p.m. The Board reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

All three Commissioners and members of public reviewed maps eastern boundary of Hospital District #2 & the Cle Elum Roslyn School District. **LILA HANSON** asked for those lands as being in common with the Ellensburg Hospital District should be deleted. **THERE BEING NO FURTHER TESTIMONY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** asked if a reduction was done would it result in having to re-examine the signatures. **MR. PETTIT** said he was unsure and would need to look into it. **CHAIRMAN HUSTON** said the statute is silent and although they can’t increase it by additional signatures, it does not speak to what happens to those who signed and proposed boundary is lessened.
NEIL CAULKISS, DEPUTY PROSECUTOR reported the statute requires a certain number of signatures are required for the proposed area which has been met and would not impact the number of signatures if boundary was lessened.

CHAIRMAN HUSTON recognized those areas may not use it as much, but technically anyone would be able to use it and should have a part of it. COMMISSIONER BOWEN said by expanding the District, it would require 15% of proposed area to annex and have a joint election with existing district and proposed area.

RESOLUTION 2005-125     PARKS & RECREATION    AUDITOR

CHAIRMAN HUSTON moved to approve Resolution No. 2005-125. COMMISSIONER BOWEN seconded.

CHAIRMAN HUSTON moved to amend Resolution 2005-125 adjusting the boundaries to delete lands which are common with Hospital District #1 COMMISSIONER BOWEN seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

CHAIRMAN HUSTON moved to amend Resolution No. 2005-125, to include a formation of a Park & Recreation District to be identified as Kittitas County Park & Recreation District No. 1. COMMISSIONER BOWEN seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion to approve amended Resolution No. 2005-125 approved 3-0.

CHAIRMAN HUSTON appreciated the work that went into it by everyone. He said if he were to include lands with some of residents that are not interested, he would have created harm. COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH said the Easton School District had expressed interest that they may want to be included at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD         KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Julie A. Kjorsvik             Perry D. Huston, Chairman