

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL MEETING**

THURSDAY

1:00 PM

MARCH 12, 2009

Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich; Vice-Chairman Paul Jewell, Commissioner Mark McClain.

Others present: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Joseph Whalen III; HR Director.

SPECIAL MEETING

BUDGET DISCUSSION

COMMISSIONERS

At 1:00 p.m. Chairman Crankovich opened a special meeting continued from March 11, 2009.

Commissioner Jewell explained that today's meeting was to discuss the ideas brought forward by the Management Team during their last meeting. He indicated there would be general discussion on different budget options, but they did not anticipate any action on any suggestions brought forward today.

Commissioner Jewell calculated the remaining overtime in the County budget and came up with approximately \$ 28,778.11 in the fund. He indicated that this total was from the Community Development Services Budget, the County Auditor and Maintenance.

There were comparisons done to show dollars versus positions and the savings to the County.

There was discussion on the Union hours in the Courthouse being reduced.

Reductions in clerical staffing levels countywide was discussed.

Discussion was held on the Master Gardner position currently out of the WSU Extension Office being relocated to the Solid Waste Department and the cost for that position would no longer come out of the General Fund, but it would be a shift to the Solid Waste Fund.

It was determined that there would be roughly \$ 16,000.00 dollars in savings if the County went to a four-day workweek, and that these savings are only in utilities. Discussion was

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held regarding the possibility of a survey being placed on the web for the public to weigh in on their feelings and impacts to the citizens of the County.

Commissioner McClain reviewed some cost saving measures he felt could benefit the County out of the Sheriff's Department.

It was determined that since the Boundary Review Board was not something that the County is using or staffing that the fund balance of \$ 1,751.00 would return to the General Fund.

There was discussion on the possibility of still funding the libraries, but reducing the original County commitment to 10% less to each entity.

The Board discussed the savings of having a 36 or 37 hour work weeks. It was determined that a 36 hour work week would be roughly a \$360.00 decrease in employees checks. Commissioner McClain expressed his understanding of the cuts and cost saving measures, but felt there was nobody in the County that could afford to take that kind of a cut out of their paycheck. It was determined there would be an approximate savings of \$720,000.00 if the 36 hour work week was enforced beginning April 1, 2009.

There was discussion on furloughs and the cost savings to the County which is roughly \$40,000.00. There was discussion on attaching furloughs to the legal holidays that County already recognizes. The Board indicated that if they had four mandatory furloughs, it would be approximately \$160,000.00 in savings to the County. There was discussion on the departments that are not in the General Fund and also the Sheriff's department not participating in the 36 Hour workweeks.

Chairman Crankovich questioned COBRA and the new legislative impacts and the costs to the County.

There was discussion on the option of putting the responsibility of finding the money on each department, and if the Board asked for 10% across the board, what type of savings it would bring to the County shortfall.

Commissioner Jewell moved to notify Kirk Holmes, Interim Director of Community Development Services to notify the six employees as discussed for staff reduction. Commissioner McClain seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The Commissioners determined after reviewing each departments budget line by line, that there are areas for additional reduction in expenses etc. and they determined departments they would each talk to individually with the exception of Jerry Pettit, County Auditor who they addressed at the time of the meeting (he walked in the last five minutes of the meeting). It was determined that all departments that were being met with, will need to cut overtime. Commissioner McClain was assigned Lower District Court, County Clerk, Superior Court and the BOCC office. Commissioner Jewell was assigned County Treasurer, County, County Assessor and Juvenile Probation. Chairman Crankovich was assigned Upper District Court, County Prosecutor, WSU Extension, Information Services and Human Resources.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Mandy Robinson

Alan Crankovich, Chairman