COMMISSIONERS’ MINUTES
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS’ AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL MEETING

THURSDAY 1:30 PM MARCH 19, 2009

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

Others present: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Judy Pless, Budget and Finance Manager; Deanna Panattoni, Treasurer; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Linda Childs, Upper County District Court Administrator; Christine Luvera, Lower County District Court Administrator; Joyce Julsrud, Clerk; Sara Keith, Clerk’s office; Marsha Weyand, Assessor; Cindy Adams, Assessor’s Office; William Holmes, Probation Services Director; Greg Zempel, Prosecutor and Joseph Whalen, Human Resources Director.

SPECIAL MEETING       FINANCE MEETING       AUDITOR/TREASURER

Chairman Crankovich opened the special meeting at 1:30 p.m. Judy Pless, Budget and Finance Manager explained that the revenues are at about the right place with 73% Sales Tax left to collect. There had been some confusion in what was said regarding the Community Development Services revenues with Judy Pless misunderstanding that the $500,000 less revenues coming from the CDS budget reported by Kirk Holmes was from the total budget instead of just the Building Permit line item.

Vice-Chairman Jewell said that they have determined that there has been some miscommunications in the past several weeks and that double checking them would be prudent.

Ms. Pless reported that some of the departments rely heavily on grants which haven’t been received yet for this year. She led a discussion on specific fund revenues including: Historical Documents, EIS Trust and Public Defense. Also discussed were Declaration of Emergency (FEMA) and Investment Interest (Treasurer’s)

It was established that in the General Fund there is a carry-over from last year which is not budgeted of $1.4 million. This is used to cover any unexpected expenses over and above the “Rainy Day Fund” of $500,000.

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The budget adjusted by the Management Team was discussed. Chairman Crankovich said that regardless of the reductions talked about in previous budget meetings, the reductions in CDS were going to happen due to their loss of revenue. He said that when those positions were granted, they were told that in case of revenue loss, those positions would also be lost.

Vice-Chairman Jewell said that Judy Pless had expressed the opinion that no further cuts are needed at this time. He asked her if that was still her opinion. She replied that it was at this time, but that she couldn’t foretell what would be needed by July 1.

There was a discussion about the accounting of grant funds. In order to get more detailed knowledge, the accounting system would have to be changed and the departments would have to do their reporting a little differently.

Treasurer Deanna Panattoni gave the cash report on the amount in the Local Government Investment Pool. She reported that the excise tax amounts were lower than last year and that people were starting to pay their taxes, but at a rate less than last year.

Auditor Jerry Pettit commended the county on doing a great job with the budget and the Board for their leadership. Other elected officials and department heads echoed his statements.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.