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

Others: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board and Brenda Larsen, Fire Marshal.

Brenda Larsen, Fire Marshal, told the Board about a jurisdictional dispute with Fire District 1 Chief, DJ Evans, who told a homeowner that a hydrant system would not require a permit. She was going to charge the homeowner double the permit price because he had no permit, when the homeowner said that Chief Evans had said that the permit was not required.

Commissioner Crankovich said that this is the County’s jurisdictional authority and a letter from the Prosecutor’s office should be sent to District 1 to remind them of that. Ms. Larsen said she will see to it.

Brenda Larsen also asked to transfer a portion of her budget that is not needed because of time without the Deputy Fire Marshal, from Salaries and Benefits to Equipment to purchase “sniffers” (a fire investigation tool to determine the type of ignitable liquids used in a fire). She also would like to purchase a laptop, vehicle ID decals for a grand total of $10,000.

Vice-Chairman Jewell said that at the time of the budget approval, a memo had gone out reminding any departments that had surplus monies in Salaries and Benefits, because of the loss of an employee, they could not just transfer the funds and spend them elsewhere. There was some discussion about whether the departments would need to have Board approval to transfer the funds. Commissioner Crankovich would research these questions.

Fire Marshal Larsen asked about the question of the Deputy Fire Marshal taking a vehicle home at night, as he was looking at a home in Easton. Vice-Chairman Jewell said that living in Easton was a personal decision. Ms. Larsen’s concern was for response time to fires. Chairman McClain suggested the Deputy take his own vehicle and be paid for mileage. Vice-Chairman Jewell suggested staging a
Fire Marshal vehicle at the Upper County Shop for his use, if there is a fire in the Upper County.

The Board will continue this discussion if there is a need.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Catherine Dunn

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mark McClain, Chairman