

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM  
REGULAR MEETING**

**MONDAY**

**9:40 A.M.**

**OCTOBER 4, 2010**

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

Others: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Greg Zempel, Prosecutor; Lisa Young, HR Manager/Interim Director.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD**

**PROSECUTOR**

Lisa Young, HR Manager/Interim Director explained that she had been directed to schedule time with the Board and County Prosecutor to discuss the expending of funds for outside legal services. She indicated that there were three different areas to discuss 1.) If the County was going to expend funds and where they would come from; 2.) What Risk Pool contact has been made, and 3.) Who will be informed and involved moving forward.

Mr. Zempel gave a brief summary of the history of this case. He explained that the Assessor had indicated to him she had money in her budget to cover the expenses. Ms. Young clarified that the Assessor was directed to cut a specific dollar amount from her 2010 budget which equated to less than the unrelated discharge of a full-time staff member; therefore she anticipated using the extra saved. Commissioner Jewell stated that money saved in wages could not be utilized for other purposes. Mr. Zempel continued to explain that he felt there was only one issue to determine, and that was whether or not to use outside council. He stated that Suzanne had been involved in the beginning and has knowledge of the issues. Discussion on whether or not there would be a fee for the transfer of files from Rocky's office was held. Mr. Zempel felt there should be no fees at this point, as all they have done is request our files back. He felt that should be a basic service that we are provided, but if there is fee associated that we will be billed accordingly. Ms. Young added that utilizing Suzanne for this purpose would result in fees that would be directly billed to the County; it would not be handled by the Risk Pool because these issues are not covered by the policy. Mr. Zempel thought there may be mixed communication, as he thought the money expended could go toward potential future expenses.

**APPROVED**  
10/19/2010

Commissioner Crankovich expressed his frustration with the current circumstances surrounding this issue and feels that the County should be pursuing a case of their own based on the conduct that occurred. Mr. Zempel was asked if they had considered any action in that regard and he replied no. Commissioner Jewell asked who was at fault for the recording error, and Mr. Zempel replied that it was an error on the administrative judge's part. He again questioned whether transitioning to internal employment law counsel rather than continuing contracted services was the right decision, and that there is a narrow window for outside council costs when we are paying for another Deputy Prosecutor. Mr. Zempel expressed that he felt it was the right path to take.

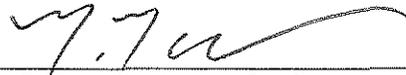
Direction was given to keep HR in the loop from this point on and there is to be a client review done, which will include a meeting with the HR department.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD



Mandy Robinson

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Mark McClain, Chairman