MONDAY 6:00 P.M. DECEMBER 5, 2011

Board members present: Chairman Paul Jewell; Vice-Chairman Alan Crankovich and Commissioner Obie O'Brien.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Maria Canfield, Public Health Administrator; Kathy Jurgens, Finance Systems Analyst; Mandy Weed, Administrative Assistant; William Holmes, Probation Services Director; Deanna Panattoni, Treasurer; Brenda Larsen, Fire Marshal; and two members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING 2012 BUDGET COMMISSIONERS

At 6:00 p.m. CHAIRMAN JEWELL opened a Public Hearing to consider adopting the 2012 County Budget in the amount of $88,043,713 and to levy taxes for the General Fund in the amount of $6,650,000 and County Road in the amount of $4,664,002. Also included is a $300,000 Levy Shift from County Road to the General Fund.

JUDY PLESS, BUDGET & FINANCE MANAGER gave a staff report on the proposed 2012 County Budget. She said the budget was balanced in the total amount of $88,043,713.00. She indicated the proposed Resolutions could be considered at the December 6th Commissioner Agenda, if they choose to adopt them at that time.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: PAUL BENNETT complimented the Board for scheduling the public hearing in the evening. He said he had met with Public Works staff and stated they did a good job explaining their reserves and how they have had matches for future construction. He asked the Board to direct Public Works to use the four-million dollars in seal coat reserves to fix the roads and do the catch up work for their projects. While he supported the tax increase, he felt the employees have not shared in the pain that all other agencies both private and public have been experiencing such as no cost of living allowances, step increases, reductions and downsizing. THERE BEING NO ONE ELSE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH noted that Public Works had made provisions to try and add additional mileage to the seal coating projects in order to help catch up on the delayed/deferred maintenance, if the funding allows. He said the County has kept the employee medical contribution the same for three years and they have laid off 28 employees and have not filled positions. The Board has asked the
Unions to implement wage freezes, but they have not been receptive to those, while noting there are several contracts that are open for negotiations next year. He understands we are in tough situations like everyone else, but felt the County has been able to maintain operations by streamlining.

COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH moved to continue the Public Hearing to Tuesday December 6, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Auditorium, to consider enabling documents. COMMISSIONER O’BRIEN seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Julie Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Paul Jewell, Chairman