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

Others: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Lisa Young, Human Resource Director; Christine Luvera, Court Administrator; Judge Jim Hurson.

SPECIAL MEETING

At 4:04 p.m. Chairman Jewell opened a Special Meeting to discuss budget and staffing in Lower District Court.

Chairman Jewell indicated the Board was already looking at the 2013 budget and reviewed the current reductions in staff that have been made in other departments. He stated that there has been and will be future meetings with departments to review possibilities of decreasing staff in departments because staff & benefits is the largest part of the County budget. He explained that although the County has a balanced budget it was due to the help of a Road Levy shift and postponing vehicle maintenance and replacements as well as Suncadia paying their taxes. He noted the Board is currently looking into ways of combining some services with the City of Ellensburg.

Christine Luvera, Court Administrator stated that the Courts have taken on more work by taking on the City of Kittitas and processing their infractions etc. She gave a breakdown of how the funding is distributed back into various County funds. She indicated that they have also taken on additional work with the passing of the 3/10th funding (more cops = more tickets = more work). Judge Hurson explained that Courts are always being tasked with unfunded mandates. He and Ms. Luvera reviewed the different duties the Lower District Court (LDC) is responsible for and what those processes look like. He explained that LDC runs as efficiently as they can with a continually increasing work load and no additional staff. Ms. Luvera stated that they have not once asked for additional staff when they were tasked with taking on the City of Kittitas caseload and the additional work produced by the 3/10th officers.

Commissioner Jewell explained that there have been cuts across the Board County-wide and at this point, they are having to look at the departments and offices that have yet to be impacted by decrease in staff. He stressed the importance of the County creating a
sustainable model because as it stands the County does not have a sustainable model at all.

There was discussion on the possibility of Upper District Court (UDC) and Lower District Court combining or sharing staff.

Commissioner Jewell indicated that the BoCC will continue to reevaluate the budget in 2012.

There was discussion on the flex schedule and that schedule may no longer being an option for County departments if it proves to be in the best interest for the County.

Staff was directed to schedule another follow up meeting in a month with Lower District Court to allow them time to discuss potential options. Staff was also directed to schedule a Special Meeting to discuss budget and staffing with the Sheriff’s department for the week of December 19, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Mandy Robinson

Paul Jewell, Chairman