

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
COMMISSIONER'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY**

**2:00 P.M.**

**DECEMBER 21, 2011**

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Clay Myers, Undersheriff; Gene Dana, Sheriff; Lisa Young, Human Resource Director and Bob Gubser, Commander.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**BUDGET/STAFFING DISCUSSION**

**COMMISSIONERS**

At 2:00 p.m. Chairman Jewell opened a Special Meeting to discuss budget concerns and staffing with the County Sheriff's department.

Chairman Jewell said he wanted to discuss staffing issues relating to next year's budget, noting they had been meeting with other departments as well. He said they are already looking into the 2013 budget and said that overhead is the largest part of the County budget. He indicated they have already cut three positions in 2012, one from the Human Resource department, Assessor and Extension, and anticipate additional cuts next year. The Board reviewed possible options relating to combining services for infrastructure and resources with the City of Ellensburg, similar to Walla Walla's model. Chairman Jewell explained how the Sheriff's department is over half of the County budget, and they needed to look to them for additional savings. He said there was no need to come back to the Board to fill the current corrections positions (which were budgeted for and already approved), but any in the future they need to go before the Board to fill positions.

Clay Myers, Undersheriff applauded the Boards efforts to try and see where additional savings can be found, and noted they do the same exercise within their own department. He reviewed statutory duties that are required of law enforcement Clerks and other positions within their office. He noted how they were already down two line positions.

Commissioner O'Brien said if they wanted a target to aim towards relating to an amount to cut, he suggested approximately 10% of their budget.

Chairman Jewell brought up an option of the County combining law enforcement services with S. Cle Elum, Cle Elum and Kittitas to see if there was any interest in combining efforts, which could result in cost savings of overhead, etc. Sheriff Gene Dana said he did not

feel comfortable bringing that option up with the Cities because he did not want them feeling he was trying to take over their services. Commissioner Crankovich cautioned the Board and said it may not be the appropriate time to bring that up, but maybe another time in the future.

Undersheriff Myers reviewed how they have gone to a vehicle replacement schedule by using mileage versus years of service.

Chairman Jewell said Lisa Young, Human Resource Director, would schedule a follow up meeting with the Sheriff's department within the next month.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

**CLERK OF THE BOARD**

  
Julie Kjorsvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
Paul Jewell, Chairman