

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

**THURSDAY**

**3:30 P.M.**

**JANUARY 5, 2012**

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

Others: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Judy Pless, Budget and Finance Manager; Sue Higginbotham, Administrative Assistant; Jerry Pettit, Auditor.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**BUDGET/STAFFING DISCUSSION**

**COMMISSIONERS**

At 3:30 p.m. Chairman Crankovich opened a Special Meeting to discuss budget concerns and staffing with the County Auditor's office.

Chairman Crankovich explained that the Board has been meeting with various departments throughout the County to discuss staffing issues relating to next year's budget. He questioned if the Auditor's office had any suggestions. He explained that as the Auditor's office is aware, more than most departments/offices salaries and benefits are the biggest part of the County's budget and therefore they are looking at those areas for some relief.

Jerry Pettit, Auditor explained that they are attempting to hold off on filling a position in the Accounting division of his office and reallocating duties. He reviewed extra duties that his office has taken on and stated that if they are forced to reduce additional staff they will have to start redistributing those duties back to the departments responsible for them.

There was discussion on election costs and what and when the State pays on odd number years.

Jerry Pettit discussed projects that his office is beginning to work on, as well as some projects they have been invited to participate in.

Commissioner Jewell stressed the need for departments and offices to come up with suggestions of ways to cut salaries and benefits. He questioned combining financial staff to all be housed under one department/office. He explained that the question had been proposed before and asked that the Auditor put some more consideration into it.

The Board encouraged the Auditor to start thinking outside the box and look at ways of restructuring the office.

**APPROVED**  
1/18/2012

Staff was directed to schedule a follow up meeting for a month out. Commissioner Crankovich stated that has been the standard process for the previous meetings to schedule a future follow up meeting. He reviewed the current opportunity's being considered.

Judy Pless discussed the Over-time/Comp-time payouts that are currently written in certain Union contracts and the impacts to the budget that they cannot accurately account for.

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

  
Mandy Robinson

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Alan Crankovich, Chairman