

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

MONDAY

11:00 A.M.

JANUARY 23, 2012

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Neil Caulkins, Deputy Prosecutor; Paul Sander, Deputy Prosecutor; Lisa Young, Human Resource Director and Candace Hooper, Deputy Prosecutor.

SPECIAL MEETING

BUDGET/STAFFING DISCUSSION

COMMISSIONERS

At 11:00 a.m. Chairman Crankovich opened a Special Meeting to receive an update from the Prosecutors office on possible ways of reducing their budget.

Paul Sander, Deputy Prosecutor indicated their budget last year was approximately 1.64 million dollars. He reported that the Prosecutors office Management Team had met and discussed ways of possibly reducing their budget by approximately 10%, as requested by the Board of County Commissioners at their previous meeting. He noted they are currently down two attorneys and have been trying to reallocate work within their department.

Mr. Sander said according to statute the duties of the Prosecutor's office is to advise the "legislative body" (therefore direction would need a quorum) or the "Chairman". They said it is so they can focus their efforts in representing the Board with good, legal advice and not have to answer questions "off the top of their head". Neil Caulkins, Deputy Prosecutor noted the statute had been written by the legislature. Mr. Sander said their department was previously able to perform more services, but with two less attorneys they have had to create ways of trying to streamline things. Their civil division's duties range from litigation, land use and code enforcement, and there is no way to predict from year to year on what will be coming their way. They plan on educating other County departments on the roles of the Prosecutors office, and ways they can get better service from them through CAMAS requests. The departments will need to realize that they will no longer be able to provide answers to them over the phone. Another option they may have to implement is a triage rule, which could result in more than a two week turn around, depending on the evaluation of their urgency. Mr. Caulkins said there are several other Counties who will not advise one Commissioner at their request, but need two before they will begin their research.

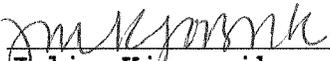
Chairman Crankovich was concerned with the process of having the Board call a Special Meeting in order to request advice from the Prosecutors office. He felt the Commissioners should have the availability to the Prosecutors, since there are occasions when one Commissioner is working on a specific project and may need a quick answer before meeting with the entire Board. Commissioner Jewell said the Board of County Commissioners are the Prosecutor's client and although he understands their desire to be efficient, he did not agree to the protocol of only being able to get advise through holding a Special Meeting or the Chairman.

Mr. Sander said there is a possibility of two people in the Prosecutors office retiring next year, but nothing is official until the paperwork has been received. If those retirements did happen, it could possibly result in approximately \$104,000 in savings. He noted how the State's budget will not be known for a few months. Their diversion program funds may be increased, especially if they continue to do the City of Ellensburg's cases. The City of Ellensburg has not determined a date to go out for RFQ's yet, but it will be competitive.

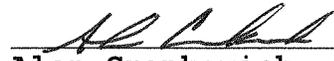
It was determined at the end of the meeting that if there is something else that comes up to discuss before June, they will contact the Commissioner's office to request a Special Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD


Julie Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Alan Crankovich, Chairman