

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

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

JANUARY 24, 2012

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

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

SPECIAL MEETING

BUDGET/STAFFING DISCUSSION

COMMISSIONERS

At 2:00 p.m. Chairman Crankovich opened a Special Meeting to discuss budget concerns and staffing with the Lower District Court Management Staff. He explained that this was a follow up discussion to a meeting held on December 12, 2011 and at that time staff was asked to review their budget and bring back possible solutions and savings to the next meeting.

Judge Hurson stated that since the last meeting they lost an employee, and they would like to fill that position. He explained that at the last meeting Lower Dist. Court (LDC) was authorized to fill it with a temp for a current employee that is out on FMLA. He explained that, that has been extremely helpful however being down another employee makes two vacant positions. He requested that the Board consider letting (LDC) fill one of the vacant positions. Commissioner Jewell questioned if they had a chance to meet with Upper District Court (UDC) yet to discuss the options of combining services that were discussed at the December meeting. Judge Hurson stated that he had briefly spoke with Judge Ellis but hasn't been able to have an in depth discussion with him to see where he stands. Commissioner Jewell indicated that direction was given today to staff to begin drafting new language for County Policy to remove the option of the alternate work week. He explained that it was his recollection that was part of the last meeting discussion and concern since Upper Dist. Court participates in the alternate work week schedule, so soon that will not be an issue. There was further discussion on (UDC) sharing a part-time employee. He stated that as of now next year isn't looking real safe and that is why they are starting to plan for it early. He explained that he felt it would be received better if departments were involved through this and weren't just forced into a last minute discussion. He stated that (LDC) is one of the last departments to be looked at, so his hope is that they realize it's not something the Board wants to do. He stated that he and the Board are very aware of how important the

Court functions are, however they are running out of areas to cut back in because other offices are fairly skeletal.

The Board discussed needing to set up a meeting with the (UDC) & (LDC) to discuss options. Lisa Young, HR Director suggested the (LDC) consider discussing options with Misdemeanant Probation since they have a current employee that was a former (LDC) employee. She suggested that maybe in the meantime they could share an employee.

There was discussion on whether or not there was an option for the (UDC) staff to do work for (LDC) from (UDC). Christine Luvera, Dist. Court Administrator stated that there would not be a way for (UDC) to do (LDC) work remotely. They would have to physically come down to Ellensburg for work.

Staff was directed to schedule a meeting with (UDC) & (LDC) along with HR to discuss the potential for sharing staff. Lower Dist. Court was directed to talk to Misdemeanant Probation and see if the former employee and their supervisor would be willing to share staff temporarily.

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


Mandy Robinson

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Alan Crankovich, Chairman