

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

WEDNESDAY

3:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 15, 2012

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

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

SPECIAL MEETING

BUDGET/STAFFING DISCUSSION

COMMISSIONERS

At 3:00 p.m. Chairman Crankovich opened a Special Meeting to discuss budget concerns and staffing with the Lower District Court and Upper District Court Management Staff. He recapped the prior discussions held with Lower District Court and other departments in the past few months and what the Board is trying to accomplish. He explained that this was a follow up discussion to a meeting held on January 24, 2012 and at that time staff was asked to touch base with Upper District Court updating them on the discussions that have been held leading up to today's, meeting as well as to review their budget and bring back possible solutions and savings to the next meeting.

Judge Hurson indicated that he had briefly discussed the proposal with Judge Ellis. He reviewed cost saving measures that have been being taken in Lower Dist. Court (LDC) that he felt the Board may not be aware of some surrounding the costs associated with Judge Pro Tem Fees.

Judge Ellis explained that he is currently down a staff member based off of historical numbers. He explained the impacts to staff pending the type of caseload they are responsible for. He reviewed the caseload count ratio for Upper Dist. Court (UDC) staff. He explained the vast differences in the types of cases (LDC) & (UDC) are responsible for, noting that (UDC) has more infractions and (LDC) has more criminal cases.

Chairman Crankovich explained that these meetings are to get Management staff thinking of options. He stated that nothing is expected to be done now, but they want to keep staff engaged in the process so that come budget time they don't have to unexpectedly make cuts. He explained that he also wanted to make staff aware that the Board is near the end of the process in eliminating the "Alternate Work Week". He explained that this schedule has not proven to be a benefit to the public and is a liability to the

County. He indicated that Department Heads under the BOCC will not have the schedule anymore, however Elected Officials can draft their own policy and file it with Human Resources if they so choose.

Judge Ellis reviewed the guidelines they have to follow that are case specific and the potential impacts if not followed.

There was discussion on "Seasonal" staff or Part-time staff that (LDC) previously had as a line item in their budget. Christine Luvera indicated that was a few years ago when the economy first sunk.

Commissioner O'Brien and Chairman Crankovich asked staff to continue to be thinking of options and they will do their best to keep everyone up to speed and assure they are hearing consistent information.

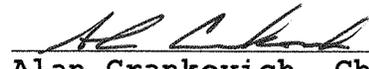
The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD



Mandy Robinson

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Alan Crankovich, Chairman