

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL MEETING**

MONDAY

11:00 A.M.

MARCH 12, 2012

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

Others: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Neil Caulkins, Deputy Prosecutor; Mandy Weed, Administrative Assistant; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Kirk Holmes, Public Works Director; Mike Flory, Plans Examiner; Doc Hansen, Planning Official and 7 members of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING

CWHBA - UPDATE

COMMISSIONERS

At 11:00 a.m. Chairman Crankovich opened a Special Meeting to discuss with the Central Washington Home Builders Association (CWHBA) the County building permit fees.

Kirk Holmes, Public Works Director gave background information. He stated that the discussion was stemming from an audit that took place last summer by the State Auditor. At that time a focus was brought to permit fees being collected and shortly after the audit the Homebuilders Association submitted their Public Disclosure request. He explained that from then on County staff has been working on the audit recommendations and implementing a tracking system for expenses and expenditures as well as the Public Disclosure Request itself.

Commissioner Jewell expressed concerns about the information submitted. He felt that it was lacking and did not provide all the numbers accurately. He felt that if the data submitted in the Public Disclosure Request reflected the County's expenditures the data submitted would be substantially different.

Mike Flory, Plans Examiner reviewed the formula used to create the fees. He discussed the importance of tracking so that there is consistent data which would reflect the current economy of the County. He stressed the importance of the County establishing a level of service as well as the benefits from having that in place. Commissioner Jewell reviewed the importance of the revenues matching the level of service. Jerry Pettit, Auditor explained the difficulties that can come from implementing new formulas. Commissioner Crankovich questioned how to determine the starting point for the County's level of service. There was further discussion on the County's level of service, fees, implementation, expenditures,

revenue, full cost recovery, legal ramifications, land use application fees, enterprise funds and increasing transparency.

Jerry Pettit gave a brief overview on how budget funds work and what types of funds can and cannot crossover.

Doc Hansen, Planning Official reviewed the impacts for planning. He discussed how outcomes are dealt with between private and public sectors as well as what type of documentation is needed and why they vary.

There was discussion on what the best and most cost effective "new" process is for the County to comply with the State Auditor recommendations. Commissioner Jewell felt that there were three strong and consistent suggestions he was hearing throughout the discussion.

Tim Harris, Attorney for the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) questioned the restitution and how it will be resolved due to the extreme overcharges by the County.

Mitch Williams, Board member for Central Washington Home Builders Association (CWHBA) questioned what the County's intended timeline was for resolving the audit findings. He expressed his frustration with the lack of details he has been able to access. He explained that there is a lack of details in the information submitted in response to the (CWHBA) public disclosure request, noting that it appeared he was not the only one to notice the lack of detail.

Jerry Pettit offered to meet with the (CWHBA) and with Judy Pless, Budget and Finance Manager and then update the Board on the outcome of that discussion. The Board indicated that they would like to see an update by the end of the month at the latest.

Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


Mandy Robinson

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Alan Crankovich, Chairman