

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

TUESDAY

11:00 A.M.

MARCH 27, 2012

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

Others: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Sue Higginbotham, Administrative Assistant; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Lisa Young, HR Director.

SPECIAL MEETING

BUDGET/STAFFING DISCUSSION

COMMISSIONERS

At 11:00 a.m. Chairman Crankovich opened a Special Meeting to discuss budget and staffing with the County Auditor's office. He stated that this was a follow up discussion from February 27, 2012 to update the Board on any progress the Auditor's office may have made regarding budget and staffing impacts.

Jerry Pettit stated that he has been considering different options of how to change things in the Auditor's Office that would impact the budget in a positive way. He stated that they have come up with savings ranging from \$ 70,000.00 to \$360,000.00 and reviewed the pros and cons of those. He reviewed that depending on what options were considered there could be negative impacts on the Union positions. He also indicated that there could be negative impacts on the level of customer service they currently provide. He indicated that the largest amount of savings would come from reducing staff hours however the Union positions are all the front office staff and those would be the only positions that would have their hours adjusted.

Lisa Young, HR Director explained how the Union impacts could play out and cautioned the Auditor that due to seniority they may end up with a negative effect to the department. Mr. Pettit indicated that, that was something he has already considered. He expressed concerns regarding the fact that we still don't have a solid State budget, and noted that currently things appear to be looking up.

Commissioner Jewell reviewed a previous discussion from the Budget and Finance Study Session that was held on Friday March 23, 2012. He stated that they could explore the idea of trying to revenue budgeting instead of expenditure budgeting, noting he wasn't certain that he was completely sold on the idea.

Commissioner Crankovich questioned whether or not the Auditor has explored the option of creating an elections reserve account. Mr.

Pettit reviewed how elections impact the budget and how it is determined who is responsible for the cost of each election and why.

There was discussion on the concerns of reserve accounts being used in off years to help balance the budget.

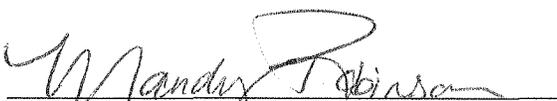
Commissioner O'Brien questioned if there were limits to setting up special funds. Mr. Pettit indicated that there were no limits to setting up accounts and that there are only restrictions or limits on how it is reported.

There was discussion over revenue based predictions and discussion on internal department budget sharing. Commissioner Jewell questioned if proposing a new way of budgeting could be implemented for this budget year. Commissioner Crankovich expressed his reservations for implementing a new budget process now. He felt it would be better received if the idea was introduced to the Management Team and then implement it by policy for next year. The Board discussed the benefits to having the numbers before them prior to the budget retreat, as well as the impacts to staff in order to have that information available sooner than usual. There was discussion on the importance of tying dollars to projects and/or employees which isn't a practice that has been used previously but one that the BoCC has been working with Departments on.

Staff was directed to schedule a meeting to present the idea of revenue budgeting to the Management Team for Monday April 2, 2012.

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


Mandy Robinson

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Alan Crankovich, Chairman