KITTITAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
UPPER DISTRICT COURT
CLE ELUM, WA

WEDNESDAY 6:00 P.M. JUNE 27, 2012

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Kirk Holmes, Public Works Director; Christina Wollman, Staff Planner and approximately 15 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT PUBLIC WORKS

At 6:00 p.m. CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH opened the Public Hearing continued from June 20, 2012 to consider the formation of a Flood Control Zone District. He reviewed the hearing procedures and noted that anyone who spoke at the previous hearing on June 20th would not be allowed additional time to speak at tonight’s hearing. He indicated the Board had left the written record open and will continue to do so until July 10, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

KIRK HOLMES, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR gave a presentation outlining the proposed Flood Control Zone District along with the terms and conditions set forth in Kittitas County Board of Commissioner’s Resolution No. 2012-001. He also reviewed the public meetings their department held in various communities within Kittitas County to address concerns and comments they had received.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: JERI DOWNS said she was not in favor of the proposed tax, based on parcels. She explained how their parcels are set up and they would end up being taxed twice. She felt it should be funded by those who would use it the most. SCOTT ANFINSON said he is a volunteer firefighter and first responder when flooding occurs. He said even though he lives outside the flood area, everyone is either impacted directly or indirectly when it happens. He encouraged the Board to take a proactive approach rather than a reactive approach and to begin prioritizing projects. ROB ACHESON said he was in favor of a Flood Control Zone District, and served on the committee that proposed options to the County. He agreed that even if someone’s property is not directly in an area that floods, everyone is somehow affected one way or another. MITCH LONG said he was in

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favor of the proposal because everyone is affected in some way by flooding whether they live in an area or not. He said he would like policies looked into which would allow County employees the power to take action that’s needed and would rather be proactive rather than reactive. DARCY BATURE spoke in favor of the proposal. She felt that just because people don’t live in a flood area, they can still feel the effects of it when it happens. She questioned ways that would help offset the costs. MIKE GAVIN felt it was a county-wide problem. He felt if development continues in the east area of Cle Elum the irrigation ditch will not be able to handle all of the water. ROSS PEARSON said he did not support the proposal and what the County is proposing to do would only raise the flood plain areas higher and they should not be involved in that type of business. He felt it wouldn’t be good for the County as a whole. He felt the County would be stuck with the tax forever and the problems should be able to be fixed within the existing budget. THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY, THE ORAL PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

MR. HOLMES said the County does not require, nor do they have the authority to make citizens purchase flood insurance. He explained how the current FEMA maps are over 30 years old, noting there are new ones currently being constructed using the latest technology.

CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH moved to continue the Public Hearing to July 17, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Auditorium, noting the written record would remain open until July 10, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. COMMISSIONER O’BRIEN seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Julie Njorsvik

Alan Crankovich, Chairman

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