BUDGET RETREAT
July 18, 2012 – 9:00 A.M.
Kittitas County Fairgrounds

Those Present:

- Alan Crankovich
- Obie O'Brien
- Paul Jewell
- Megan Acree
- Brenda Larsen
- Patti Johnson
- Cindy Adams
- Bob Gubser
- Gene Dana
- Clayton Myers
- Steve Panattoni
- William Holmes
- Todd Davis
- Greg Zempel
- Karen Hamel
- Jim Goeben
- Julie Kjorsvik
- Matt Anderson
- Mandy Weed
- Diana Mackenzie
- Lisa Young
- Joyce Julsrud
- Sara Keith
- Kathy Jurgens
- Deanna Panattoni
- Kirk Holmes
- Christine Luvera
- Mandy Robinson
- Jonna Davis
- Dale Larson
- Marsha Weyand
- Kim Dawson
- Robin Rapp
- Judy Pless
- Jan Ollivier
- Sue Higginbotham
- James Rivard
- Kelly Carlson
- Paul Sander
- Doc Hanson
- 2-Members of the Public

Chairman Crankovich opened and welcomed all County staff to the 2013 Budget Retreat. He reviewed the Agenda and noted that staff had previously e-mailed a letter of expectations for the retreat and what departments should be planning for when preparing their 2013 budget. He gave an update on County building projects: jail repairs and the new Pod, Armory & the Upper District Court.

Marsha Weyand, Assessor gave updates on Real & Personal property taxes and the annual revaluation process.

Deanna Panattoni, Treasurer gave an update on property foreclosures and distrains in the County. She reviewed the process for property foreclosure and how one goes about purchasing property that is in foreclosure. She gave a brief overview of purchasing Tax Title property and how it ends up in that status.

Lisa Young, Human Resources Director updated the County Management Team on the four out of six Union Contracts that will be open for negotiations in 2013. She explained what the negotiation process entails and addressed what the process is if the negotiation process exceeds the contract end date. Chairman Crankovich gave updates on the anticipated increases for insurance premiums. He indicated that the rate setting meeting will take place in August and at that time he will be able to bring back firm numbers. He addressed the County’s opportunity to participate in a “wellness program” and the benefits it provides to the employee and employer if they have 40% of the employees commit to the program. He indicated that even if the employees partake in the program, but the County doesn’t get 40% to commit, there is still a financial benefit to the employee. He anticipated information about the program to begin coming in for the employee’s information in August. Commissioner O’Brien explained how he is not preparing for any kind of salary increase in 2013 for non-union or exempt personnel. He stated that it is his hope that come budget time, the numbers will show differently but at this time it was looking grim. He stated that it was his personal feeling that he would rather save positions than give salary increases.

Judy Pless, Budget and Finance Manager reviewed what the Management Team should expect for this year’s budget dates. She reviewed key dates that were important in relation to the
budget process. She indicated that this year they would be using "family" groups again and provided a list of the proposed groups. She indicated that the location is not yet set for the budget dates but to expect additional information in the near future. She reviewed financial reports that were provided at the start of the Budget Retreat, as well as fund balances, BARS updates, & preliminary Budget documents.

• Lunch Break 12:05 – 1:05

Commissioner Jewell reviewed the following policies created for budget discussions and subsequent development of departments budget requests:

1. Your beginning 2012 department budget will be considered your 2013 starting point. Requests for increases of any line item must be justified in your budget narrative to be considered.

2. Increases in FTE’s will not be considered without funding specifically designated to cover a respective request.

3. Vacancy savings may not be spent elsewhere within a department budget without BOCC approval.

4. Existing fund balance will not be used to support operations.

5. "Rainy day" funds will not be used.

He indicated the priorities of the Board and asked that staff to prepare their budgets as follows to address the 2013 priorities:

1. Providing appropriate levels of service for essential public services.
2. Capital facilities improvements.
3. Investing in long term planning improvements and efforts.
4. Investing in economic development.
5. Investing in services of the Public Health Department.

A roundtable discussion with departments was held and each department gave brief reports and updates, as well as their 2013 budget priorities.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Deputy Clerk of the Board

Alan Crankovich, Chairman