

**KITTITAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSIONERS AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL MEETING**

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 5, 2013

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Michael Nigrey, Deputy Prosecutor; Lindsay Ozbolt, Staff Planner; Brenda Larsen, Fire Marshall and 6 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE CODE FIRE MARSHAL

At 2:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN O'BRIEN** opened a Public Hearing continued from January 15, 2013 to consider applying the Wildland Urban Interface Code throughout Kittitas County. He noted the record was open to both written and oral testimony.

BRENDA LARSEN, FIRE MARSHAL explained that she had spoken with the Prosecutors office and they indicated the process needs to first go through the Planning Commission as well as having a SEPA determination before the Board of County Commissioners can consider adopting the WUI Code. She said it was due to involving both land use and building code issues. She noted written comments the County had received from the Central Washington Home Builders Association and she responded to their concerns.

COMMISSIONER JEWELL said having to go through the SEPA process and going before the Planning Commission, there would most likely be many more changes than what had been originally proposed (including amendments to Kittitas County Code Title 16). He suggested closing the public hearing rather than continuing it to an indefinite date and then re-noticing it in the future so the public has all the information in front of them including the Planning Commission recommendations.

DAVE WHITWILL, REPRESENTING THE CENTRAL WASHINGTON HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION reviewed their written comments including suggestions to streamline the entire process. He felt there should be a better utilization of all County staff and to not just rely on the Fire Marshal. **DJ EVANS, CHIEF OF FIRE DISTRICT #1** said although he understands the concept of trying to update the map, by the time it was completed it would be very much like

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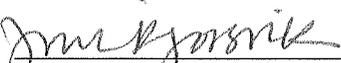
a "checkerboard". He preferred having site assessments instead of overall grouping areas and recommended leaving the map alone for now. **CARL NELSON** questioned if someone wanted to alter their IR by creating a buffer and it had an effect on another type of designation (wetlands, etc.) what protection would be in place for the other property owners. **THERE BEING NO OTHERS REQUESTING TO TESTIFY THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

COMMISSIONER JEWELL said he was eager to move things forward and supported staff's recommendation to ensure everything is done appropriately the first time, despite it taking some additional time. He encouraged everyone to remain engaged in the process and to provide comments. **COMMISSIONER BERNDT** said the County should look at refining, streamlining and cross-training for better efficiency. He expressed his appreciation for the comments made by the public.

The Board closed the Public Hearing with no action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD



Julie Kjørsvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Chairman Obie O'Brien