COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONER'S AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY 3:00 P.M. JULY 07, 2014

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

Others: Mandy Buchholz, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Kirk Holmes, Public Works Director/Interim-Building Official; Holly Myers, Environmental Health Supervisor; Doc Hansen, Planning Official; Rose Shriner, Permit Tech.; Jeff Watson, Planner; Neil Caulkins, Deputy Prosecutor; Clay Myers, Undersheriff; Candace Hooper, Deputy Prosecutor and 9 members of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING MARIJUANA ENFORCEMENT COMMISSIONERS

At 3:00 p.m. Chairman Jewell opened a Special Meeting to discuss with County Staff, Marijuana Enforcement. He explained the meeting rules and stated that the meeting was requested by Commissioner Berndt due to some recent concerns he was presented with and that the meeting would be turned over to Commissioner Berndt.

Commissioner Berndt explained that he had recently met with County Staff to discuss enforcement issues/concerns and after the feedback that he received from Staff it generated a great deal of concern for him.

Doc Hansen, Planning Official explained that currently the way they are screening for potential marijuana “farms” is any application that comes into CDS with an 8ft fence are flagged and sent a notice. He provided a copy of the notice to the Board that they are currently sending out to applicants. He stated that this has consumed far more time than they ever anticipated and gave examples of what is currently involved for Staff’s review. He provided the Board what CDS is currently handing out with the applications for building titled required information prior to acceptance of building permit application intended for marijuana production/processing.

Holly Myers, Environmental Health Supervisor gave an update and examples of concerns that Environmental Health is facing. She discussed concerns on how they are going to track water and how to police it. There was discussion on having the water trucks provide reports to the County. The Board agreed that they need something more than Title 18 to aid in regulating and maintaining compliance.

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Mr. Hansen suggested the Board draft a letter to the WSLCB notifying them of zoning issues that certain applications are faced with. He felt it would potentially save everyone time.

There was brief discussion on the Code Enforcement issues and adding this to the case load of the one Code Enforcement Officer currently employed by the County. There was discussion on compliance with WAC/RCW, annual inspections, water availability reporting, forecasting future enforcement issues and how to handle them.

Commissioner O’Brien questioned Mr. Hansen regarding the tracking of addresses that are listed on the Liquor Control Board (marijuana portion) website. Mr. Hansen indicated that to the best of their ability the applications are flagged in the GIS layers and available to County Departments. He stated that when any permits are requested the Department is able to see the address in question and confirm if it is likely marijuana related commercial activity and at that time the applicant is notified of the County requirements as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.