

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL MEETING**

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Jim Goeben, Information Technology Director; Roy Chance, Construction Manager; Mark Cook, Public Works Director and Doug Fessler, Network Administrator.

PUBLIC HEARING

NOANET FRANCHISE

PUBLIC WORKS

At 2:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN BERNDT** opened a Public Hearing to consider a Franchise Application from Northwest Open Access Network, aka NoaNet for a Countywide Telecommunication Franchise.

ROY CHANCE, CONSTRUCTION MANAGER reviewed a Staff Report and described an application they received from Northwest Open Access Network, aka NoaNet for a Countywide Franchise Agreement. He said the proposed project included an aerial and underground installation of fiber optic line. **CHRIS WALKER, TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR FOR NOANET** reviewed a map of their infrastructure and gave an overview of the history of their corporation. He described the affordable services that would be available in rural areas, noting they do not have the authority to provide services to residential customers. **COMMISSIONER JEWELL** asked what the benefit to the public would be. **MR. WALKER** described the public benefit including affordability for advanced public telecommunication services, which is more than Netflix and YouTube. He said the Franchise Agreement would assist with opportunities in the future of building infrastructure and noted they currently serve 72% of the State's schools. NoaNet is a public service agency and they could not gift fibers to the County as it would be illegal, but could possibly provide them with telecommunication services. **MARK COOK, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR** explained how the public benefit test elevates when a Countywide Franchise is requested and said the Board could look at another option including a more specific Franchise instead of having it Countywide. **COMMISSIONER JEWELL** said he would like to know more information on how they could assist with providing emergency communication services as it would be a benefit to the public, but was still concerned with the proposed Franchise being a financial burden to the County. **JIM GOEBEN, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR** asked if NoaNet would be willing to build into the County facility as he felt it would be a benefit to the citizens.

COMMISSIONER JEWELL suggested continuing the Public Hearing to allow for further discussion between the applicant and County Staff to research benefits to the public.

THERE BEING NO ONE IN ATTENDANCE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

COMMISSIONER JEWELL moved to continue the Public Hearing to October 13, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Auditorium, Room 109, Kittitas County Courthouse 205 West 5th Avenue Ellensburg, WA to allow Staff and the applicant to work together and report back to the Board on that date. **CHAIRMAN BERNDT** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD


Julie Kjorsvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Gary Berndt, Chairman