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

Others: Mandy Buchholz Deputy Clerk of the Board II; Lisa Young, HR Director; Neil Caulkins, Deputy Prosecutor. Freedom Foundation: Scott Roberts, Matthew Hayward and David Dewhirst.

SPECIAL MEETING EVERGREEN FREEDOM FOUNDATION COMMISSIONERS

At 4:00 p.m. Chairman Jewell opened a Special Meeting to meet with representatives from the Freedom Foundation to discuss open contract negotiation policies.

Matthew Hayward, Freedom Foundation stated that as of right now only two agencies (Lincoln County and Pullman School Dist.) so far have passed Resolutions adopting this process for open public contract negotiations. There was review of why this is beneficial for all parties involved and who the unlikely supporters are that the County would receive support from. He reviewed handouts provided. There was a review of different levels of openness and how different jurisdictions have processed the idea and how they have moved forward with adopting versions of the negotiation process.

There was a brief update on Lincoln County and where they are at in the process.

Lisa Young, HR Director questioned why haven’t any other Counties jumped on the wagon. She explained that the County has worked hard building relationships with the Unions. She stated that she really doesn’t want to ruin that and go backwards with them.

Chairman Jewell questioned if Kittitas County wanted to move forward how would it be done and allow the County to preserve its relationships with the Unions.

Matthew Hayward, Freedom Foundation explained that he thinks why Lincoln County had a successful process and not all the outcry from the public is because they went into the process as “this is what we are doing”. It wasn’t up for discussion, but that anyone was welcome to listen to the process so they were informed, etc.

Commissioner Jewell directed Lisa Young, HR Director to set up a follow up Special Meeting in a month with the Freedom Foundation.
Union Members/Reps., and at least a Commissioner from Lincoln County so they can share their experience. He stated that the meeting should be set for approximately an hour and half.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Mandy Buchholz

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Paul Jewell, Chairman