

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

FRIDAY

8:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Judy Pless, Budget & Finance Manager; Dan Carlson, CDS Director; Clay Myers, Undersheriff/Interim Fire Marshal; Lisa Young, Human Resource Director/Interim Event Center Director; and approximately 20 members of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING

FIRE MARSHAL POSITION

COMMISSIONERS

At 8:00 a.m. Chairman Osiadacz opened a Special Meeting to consider a decision on the structure of the Fire Marshal/Code Official/Fire Investigator position.

Clay Myers, Undersheriff/Interim Fire Marshal provided information on their proposal of the Fire Marshal/Code Official/Fire Investigator structure. He said they had hoped to eliminate some of the challenges and be able to provide for more efficiency by separating the inspection responsibilities in CDS, from the investigation responsibilities in the Emergency Management division of the Sheriff's Department.

Rich Elliott, Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue provided information on the benefits of splitting the position, as well as the role of investigating fires. He said they see it as a potential solution for turn-over in the position which has resulted in a significant impact to the community.

Members of the public provided comments on the proposed changes and asked questions of Staff and the Board of County Commissioners relating to the Fire Marshal position and structure.

Dan Carlson, CDS Director said that he didn't have any issues relating to the concept of separating the position however; he did have some concerns with the positions reporting two different Elected Officials.

Commissioner O'Brien said he saw value in putting the investigation side under the Sheriff's Department but would like to have additional time to research some more information. He expressed concerns that by extending the decision, it could potentially risk

losing a highly qualified candidate who is interested in the position.

Chairman Osiadacz said she would be in favor of continuing the decision for additional input, as the purpose would be to ensure how to provide the best service to the residents of Kittitas County and to uphold the law. She said the Sheriff's Department has long standing success handling emergencies and investigations in the community and this could result in an opportunity to improve services to the public.

Commissioner O'Brien moved to continue the meeting until Friday September 28, 2018 at 8:00a.m. to be held in the Commissioners Auditorium for further public input. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Commissioner Wright explained he supported opportunities for improvement but in light of the growth in the County, the EMS requirements have also increased significantly. He felt there was a need to obtain feedback from various community stakeholders, and look into funding options. He thought there should be an opportunity to develop a strategy through a process with an innovative approach that could result in Kittitas County being a leader in the State again. He thought they should hire a person as soon as possible and should not put it off any longer.

Motion carried 2-1. Commissioner Wright opposed the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD


Julie Kjosvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Laura Osiadacz, Chairman