

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

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

JULY 2, 2019

Board members present: Chairman Cory Wright; Vice-Chairman Brett Wachsmith and Commissioner Laura Osiadacz.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Mark Cook, Public Works Director/Interim Engineer; and approximately 12 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

FISH LEASE

PUBLIC WORKS

At 2:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** opened a Public Hearing to consider a Lease with FISH for the Elmview Building and Lot C-30 of the Kittitas County Airport Amended Binding Site Plan.

MARK COOK, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/INTERIM ENGINEER reviewed information for a proposed Lease with FISH for the Elmview Building and Lot No. C-30 of the Kittitas County Airport Amended Binding Site Plan. He said the current market rate for land lease is \$0.14/square foot and FISH is requesting the Board of County Commissioners consider applying tenant improvement costs against the lease costs. He said if the Board approved a Lease with FISH, the Prosecutors office could draft the document and have it for their consideration at the next Agenda Session. The Board of County Commissioners asked Staff questions and for clarification on a proposed Lease.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: **DAVE RATLIFF** Vice-Chairman of the Airport Advisory Committee said they had not been advised of the Public Hearing. They opposed the proposed Lease with FISH and felt it was incompatible with the area. **BRIAN McELROY** reviewed information from FISH and expressed concerns of any overnight sheltering with a distribution center. He felt it would encourage and promote homeless camps in the area. He suggested the Board review its long lasting improvements to the facility as it is public money that's being given. **GAYL CURTISS** said their last two Point-In-Time counts resulted in a total of 19 homeless people and she didn't believe that their new, temporary facility would be overrun with a homeless camp. She said FISH would only be located there for a limited amount of time and they would begin launching a campaign to build elsewhere. **VIRGIL THORVSON** explained how he didn't have any issues with FISH and the services they provide, but thought something temporary can change into something permanent, and urged the Board to consider putting a time limit in their lease. He also explained how it was not an appropriate use of property out at the

Airport. **PEGGY MORACHE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FISH** said they record everyone who is served at their facility and only 1% of the population is transients. She noted how they've never had an issue of people sleeping in the driveway at the Church where they've previously been located or even at the cold weather shelters. She said it's their goal within the next 12 months to break ground for a pantry and a warehouse to make their operations whole and they want to be sure that wherever they are located, their facility is attractive and professional. **TERRY LARUE** questioned what the liability was to the County by having FISH located out there and the possible impacts to fire and police. He felt it was a land use issue and questioned why it hadn't gone before the Airport Advisory Committee. He felt that there wasn't anyone against the services FISH provides, but it was more about it not fitting in with the Airport area. **LAURIE FRITZ** said she works for FISH and thought it was sad to see the building crumbling since Elmview had been located in it. She urged the Board to approve a lease as they are in need of a warehouse for food and a place to serve the community. **THERE BEING NO OTHERS REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

COMMISSIONER WACHSMITH moved to approve a Lease Agreement between Kittitas County and FISH and to direct Staff to prepare enabling documents. **COMMISSIONER OSIADACZ** seconded. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT moved to amend motion to include FISH's terms for one year with (2) 6-month extensions, for a maximum of 2 years. **COMMISSIONER WACHSMITH** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT moved to waive the CPA requirement. **COMMISSIONER WACHSMITH** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.


Vote on the original motion passed 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD


Julie Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Cory Wright, Chairman