

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
WEBEX
SPECIAL MEETING**

THURSDAY

9:00 A.M.

MAY 20, 2021

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

Others via Webex: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Taylor Crouch, Administrative Assistant; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Sue Higginbotham, Chief Administrator; Greg Zempel, Prosecutor; and Elishia Harvill, Chief Administrator.

SPECIAL MEETING

MENTAL HEALTH TAX

COMMISSIONERS

At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Wachsmith opened a Special Meeting to consider the Prosecutor's office legal opinion relating to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorder Sales & Use Tax.

Greg Zempel, Prosecutor, provided an update and reviewed the legal opinion relating to the proposed Sales & Use Tax. He said the authority rests with the Board of County Commissioners and advisory elections. Commissioner Wright said the information he received from Municipal Research and an advisory vote was unclear. The Board had a discussion and wanted more clarity for an advisory vote. Greg Zempel said he would submit a CAMAS request to provide further clarity. Vice-Chairman Osiadacz said she had worked with the Public Health Administrator and the Budget & Finance Director and they are currently looking for funding outside of having to have a vote to increase the sales and use tax. She said they were looking at what is best for Kittitas County to fund it from resources that may already exist. She did not support strictly imposing an additional tax without a vote of the citizens. Jerry Pettit, Auditor said they could prepare a cost estimate by the end of June for placing it on either the General ballot or having it on a Special/Primary ballot. The deadline to place it on the November General Ballot is August 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Wright said he would like to give Commissioner Osiadacz time to look at other possible funding options without an additional tax. Vice-Chairman Osiadacz said they hoped to get information by the beginning of July.

APPROVED
C/1/21


Meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD



Julie Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Brett Wachsmith, Chairman