

**KITTITAS COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
COMMISSIONERS' AUDITORIUM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 109 - ELLENSBURG  
Regular Meeting**

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>June 5, 2024</b>
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**Board members present:** Chairman Brett Wachsmith, Commissioners Laura Osiadacz and Cory Wright.

**Others:** Sheriff Clay Myers, Inspector Christopher Whitsett, Finance Director Brian Carlson, HR Director Jeanne Killgore and Deputy Prosecutor Doug Mitchell (via WebEx).

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

**Citizens Comments (1 minute time limit):** None.

**Discussion on Digital Forensic Investigator (Civilian position for 2025)** - Sheriff Myers advised a detective in records evidence/investigations is increasing from other jurisdictions and Sheriff's Office has an agreement with EPD, but we are at the point we need to recoup costs. With this, we are looking to create a civilian position; funding source 3/10<sup>th</sup> to build position and will request with an estimate. Brian Carlson suggests the 3/10<sup>th</sup> venue to recoup funds, as this is sufficient funding.

**Land Use update** – Sheriff Myers says the USFS law enforcement is down, and we have one forest service deputy and it's been conveyed to increase hours, etc., another is boat access to Yakima River which is BLM, and we don't know the expectations of Fish and Wildlife.

**Traffic Impact** - Sheriff Myers said there were 8 deputies in South Cle Elum over the weekend, traffic was managed, but it's extending into Easton area. This has now moved up in priority. Commissioner Wright asked about photo cameras and the Sheriff mentioned he doesn't object, but would be more complaints from locals, if any, as grid lock is the problem. Easton's concern is the bridge as this falls under public works.

**Staffing Update** – The Sheriff mentioned that patrol is down 3 deputies and 5 jail deputies.

**Closed Bargaining** – At 8:40 a.m. Chairman Wachsmith announces the Board going into Collective Bargaining – Closed Session – Pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b), the OPMA does not apply to that portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress.

At 9:01 a.m. the Board reconvened out of the Closed Bargaining Session. No action was taken.

**Other business** – Commissioner Osiadacz mentioned that district #2 having problems with noise complaints/issues and asked does noise ordinance need updated or policy if people are out of line. The Sheriff said this is not a legislative issue, it's an enforcement issue and Chief Kokjer is working on this. The Sheriff mentioned a tool to start using is sending letters to Airbnb, VRBO, etc., as this is something that can be done.

Sheriff Myers mentioned that the US Marshalls (Federal) Agreement will be coming through soon which is an incoming revenue.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

  
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**Kim Dawson**

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**  
  
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**Brett Wachsmith, Chairman**