

KITTITAS COUNTY
FINANCE STUDY SESSION MINUTES
BOCC CONFERENCE ROOM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 108 - ELLENSBURG

Wednesday	10:00AM	October 2, 2024
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Board members present: Chairman Brett Wachsmith, Commissioner Laura Osiadacz,
Commissioner Cory Wright

Staff Present: Brian Carlson, Finance Director, Zack DeHaven, Andrew Yoder, Reid
Burbank, Jeanne Killgore, Nancy Shaff, Ben Kokjer, Casey McFarlane,

Others: Amy McGuffin, Chamber of Commerce

1. **Call to Order:** 10:01am
2. **Citizen Comments** - none
3. **Finace update-YTD**

Monthly update of revenues and expenses given by Mr. Carlson.

4. **Budget Amendment-Discussion Regarding Current Projects and Funding ARPA Re-positioning**

Zack DeHaven proposed the redirection of remaining unspent internal ARPA appropriations toward General Fund Salaries. The remaining Internal ARPA funds are \$4.86 MM. He explained the slight risk of funds being returned if not used by December 31, 2026.

Zack DeHaven also discussed the Upper County EOC Project and options for going forward. The building is a 3-phase project and the analysis of each phase and option were presented. County's project managers and owners will clarify grant obligations in upcoming meetings.

Zack DeHaven presented the current funding picture for the Lower County Transfer Station project and its projected shortfall. Discussion was had about the option to reallocate expected surplus funding from the County Broadband project toward the transfer station. The Board informally directed the additional \$670K of the existing Broadband appropriation towards the Lower County Transfer Station. Staff will present option for remaining shortfall at a future venue.

5. 2025 Health Benefits Plan-Compass Direct Health Clinic

Mr. Carlson discussed a third option for the County's self-insurance program. Jeanne Kilgore from HR introduced an additional health plan option for clinic primary care at Compass Direct.

Finance department anticipates no structural cost increase to the plan and possible cost reduction. The Board has no issues with this additional option.

6. Executive Session: Union Negotiations Update:

CLOSED SESSION – 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 negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress.

The Board entered closed session to discuss collective bargaining. The Board exited closed session with no action taken.

7. 2025 Budget- Update Regarding Preliminary Figures, Preview of October Hearings

Mr. Carlson gave updates on 2025 Budget. Upcoming meetings to discuss Personnel and Project requests. Discussion of the preliminary General Fund Deficit was reviewed.

8. Other Business

Commissioner Laura Osiadacz discussed the need of Fire District #3 in Easton. They are requesting funds for maintenance of the Helipad that is used by the County. Approximately \$50K is needed for lightening and paving. Ben Kokjer from the Sheriffs office informed the BOCC that this is the number 2 Helipad in the county used for emergencies. Further discussion is needed.


Amy McGuffin from the Chamber of Commerce requested ARPA funds for Small Business Entrepreneur program. 3 types of programs were presented the program is envisioned as technical assistance and continuing education for small businesses including start-ups, entrepreneurs, ranchers, farmers and hospitality businesses. The Board asked the Chamber to reach out to COG for assistance.

The Board entered closed session to discuss Employee review. The Board exited closed session with no action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 11:18AM


Brian Carlson

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Brett Wachsmith, Chairman