

**ŁKITTITAS COUNTY  
CDS STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
COMMISSIONERS' AUDITORIUM, 205 WEST 5<sup>th</sup> ROOM 109  
Special Meeting**

**MONDAY**

**10:00 AM**

**May 29, 2025**

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

Others: Chad Bala, Laura Kukes and Shannon Johnson, Community Development Services; Stephanie Hartung, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and one (1) member of the public.

At 10:00 am Chair Osiadacz opened the Community Development Services Study Session.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Pat Kelleher, 6530 Wilson Creek Road, Ellensburg, WA, introduced himself at the podium and spoke against the hiring/creating of the new position, and discussed his concerns about county budget, and lack of cost information for the position.

**LAND USE & RECREATION PLANNER POSITION**

CDS Director Chad Bala presented his staff report and provided background history. He had previously presented the position to the Board at the CDS Study Session on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. At the conclusion of the discussion, Director Bala offered to continue working with DPW and HR on the details of this position, and Commissioners proposed that he continue to refine the scope, responsibilities and funding, then bring back at a May 2025 CDS Study session. Director Bala noted that he and DPW Director Josh Fredrickson had continued to work together to refine the details of the position and had come to an agreement. He explained further the need for the position and that both he and Director Fredrickson are in favor of moving forward with the position. He welcomed Commissioner feedback and questions. Chair Osiadacz discussed Lodging Tax funding options, and asked questions concerning essential job duties for the position. Director Bala asked for clarification from the Board to ensure that the direction is to move forward with the next steps including HR and the Auditor's Office. Vice-Chair Wright discussed his support for this position and clarified how various funding scenarios could work for this role. He noted the way we've tailored this position; it can fulfill both land use and recreation duties. Commissioner Wachsmith was in support and confident in finding funding sources. Chair Osiadacz confirmed the direction to move forward.

**2025 YEAR TO DATE CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

CDS Director Chad Bala opened the discussion to bring the Board an update on code enforcement and provided some background information on the hard work

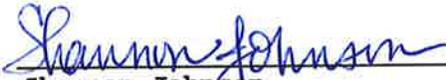
**APPROVED**  
07/01/2025

his Code Enforcement Officer, Laura Kukes had accomplished. He referenced her staff report and data sheet and introduced her to the Board. Laura Kukes, Code Enforcement Officer presented her staff report and expanded on the case data. Vice-Chair Cory Wright was thankful for the great work and noted that the 70% reduction in one year was an incredible performance. Chair Osiadacz acknowledged appreciation for Laura's accessibility and customer service. Stephanie Hartung explained the difficulties of the position, and informed that Officer Kukes does a very good job of being calm, working with folks and has built a great program. It's more sold than ever before, she's been very impressed with both Laura and Chad. Commissioner Wachsmith commented that it's good to hear. Director Chad Bala thanked Stephanie Hartung and her office for being very beneficial to CDS. He stated that although there is a long way to go, Officer Kukes has been very active and diligent on a daily basis in looking at code etc. for possible changes and solutions for code enforcement and abatement issues moving forward.

**OTHER BUSINESS - No Action to be taken**

There was no other business.

Meeting concluded at 10:19 a.m.

  
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Shannon Johnson

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
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Laura Osiadacz, Chair