

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

THURSDAY	9:00AM	JULY 24, 2025
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Board members present: Chairman Laura Osiadacz, Commissioner Cory Wright, Commissioner Brett Wachsmith

Staff Present: Budget and Finance Director, Zack DeHaven, Treasurer, Amy Cziske, Lisa Murray, Andrew Yoder, Sue Patterson,

Others: Ann Leichter, Boys and Girls Club- Program Director, Jeff Leichter
 Citizen: Pat Kelleher

1. **Call to Order:** 9:01am
2. **Citizen Comments** – None
3. **Boys and Girls Club- Funding Update (Discussion/Decision)**

Ann Leichter from the Boys and Girls Club is requesting additional funding of \$40,000 from Kittitas County. The requested funds are intended to cover permit costs associated with the proposed “Community Hub”. It was noted that none of the previous county’s funding has been allocated to this project. Commissioners express support for the project, however, noted the funding will need to be identified from existing or alternative sources before allocations can be finalized.

A commitment was made to fund the project as part of the 2026 budget, the source of funds still to be identified.

4. **Title III Funds- Background and Budget Amendment (Decision)**

The Sheriff’s office is requesting a budget amendment to transfer Titel III funds to the Search and Rescue program within The Sheriff’s office. With no staff present, Zack DeHaven explains the Sheriff’s office request. Commissioners requested program specific information prior to making a decision.

No Decision made.

APPROVED

8/5/2025

5. Self-Funded Medical-Performance Update (Discussion)

Anderw Yoder explains the initial renewal rate for UHC medical benefits for 2024 was projected at 39%, which would have increased the monthly premium from \$1,221.00 to \$1,698.00. With 249 enrolled employees the projected total cost for 2024 under this renewal would have been approximately \$5.07 million. By switching to the self-funded plan, the increase went down to 15%, resulting in a revised expected cost of \$4.2 million. As of year-end, Alliant calculated the cost to premiums at 4.03 million, yielding total savings of approximately \$1.04 million compared to the original projection. Commissioners request more information on the type of claims being submitted. Perhaps the Wellness funds could be utilized.

6. Finalize REET 1 Funding Obligation for the Lower County Transfer Station (Decision)

Zack DeHaven discusses utilizing the REET 1 funding for the Lower County Transfer Station.

Solid Waste secured two Public Works Trust Board loans totally \$16.6 million. Per resolution 2023-155, at least 50% of the annual debt service for the \$10 million loan will be funded through REET 1. The loan carries a 1.39% interest rate over 20-year term with the debt service beginning in June 2025. Projected 2025 REET 1 expenditures will exceed revenues by \$550,000 leaving an estimated year – end fund balance of \$6.5 million. Commissioners would like more programing specific information directly from Patti Stacey, Facilities and Solid Waste Director.

No Decision made.

7. CSC Report-Quarter One Final Report (Discussion)

Zack DeHaven provides quarter one final report. The CSC group will present at the next management meeting to provide additional information and updates related to their work.

8. Code Enforcement/Long Range Planner-Rethink Subsidy (Discussion)

Zack DeHaven explains the need to reassign the fund in which the Long-Range Planner and Code Enforcement functions reside from Community Development Service Funds to the General Fund. Commissioners agree with this change for the 2026 budget.

9. Fire Protection County Facilities (Discussion)

Zack DeHaven informs the Commissioners that Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue (Fire District 2) has proposed a fee for fire protection of \$1.50/\$1,000 of assessed value annually for County Facilities. The request is derived from the fact that fire protection districts are supported by property taxes, but public agencies are exempt from paying property tax. Citizen, Pat Kelleher comments about the fire at the Horse Park in Cle Elum. No action required on this topic, informational only.

10. Other Business:

Zack DeHaven announces the State Auditors will be onsite sometime after July 28th to start the annual Audit.

The Yakima Humane Society has reached out to request additional funding. Zack DeHaven will set up a meeting.

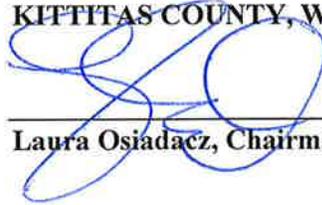
Meeting adjourned at 9:44am



Sue Patterson

Accountant Assistant III

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Laura Osiadacz, Chairman