

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
CONFERENCE ROOM
REGULAR MEETING**

MONDAY

9:00 A.M.

OCTOBER 13, 2025

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

Others: Mandy Buchholz, Office Administrator; Jodi Larsen, Office Administrator; Chelsey Loeffers, Public Health Director; Kasey Knutson, Human Services Manager, and five members of the public.

REGULAR MEETING

OFFICE STAFF MEETING

COMMISSIONERS

At 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Osiadacz opened the Office Administration meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Karraker, HAHC Member, expressed concerns regarding the CWS Budget increase. He stated that the Committee approved the original amount and the new cost is elevated. He had concerns for programs the funding is already supporting and how they could be impacted. He stated that an itemized budget should be sent to the committee for review prior to BoCC approval.

Joan Neslund, HAHC Member, stated she had concerns regarding the budget. She stated that she has concerns regarding the quality of food being provided and how security incidents are handled. She stated the numbers seem high.

Amy McGuffin, Chamber CEO spoke about the Construction Summit the Chamber recently hosted. She stated there were 72 students from across the County and 5 jobs came from it. She updated the Board on how the Chamber is shifting their programs being offered.

CALENDAR

WEEK AT A GLANCE

COMMISSIONERS

The Board of County Commissioners reviewed their weekly calendar.

PAF/VOUCHERS

REVIEW OF PAF'S & VOUCHERS

COMMISSIONERS

The Board of County Commissioners approved and signed County Employee Personnel Action Forms and Vouchers.

CORRESPONDENCE LOG

REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE LOG

COMMISSIONERS

The Board of County Commissioners reviewed the weekly Correspondence

Log, a listing of all incoming mail and correspondence for the week ending October 10, 2025.

UPDATE/REQUEST CWS - HOPESOURCE BUDGET INCREASE PUBLIC HEALTH

Ms. Loeffers provided an update regarding the request from HopeSource for a budget increase related to the CWS. She reported that she had contacted the City of Ellensburg, but the City does not have additional funds available. The City is currently managing costs that exceeded their original projections for the project.

Commissioner Wachsmith shared that he raised the topic of the CWS budget during the "Other Business" portion of the recent Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committee (HAHC) meeting. He noted the discussion was constructive but generated many additional questions that need further exploration.

Mr. Raymond presented potential cost-saving measures, including:

- Reducing the shelter's operating period from five months to four months.
- Narrowing the population served to better align with available resources.

He explained that HopeSource faces increased costs compared to the previous faith-based sponsor due to compliance with federal requirements and added operational complexity. Despite these challenges, HopeSource stepped in to address a critical community need. However, Mr. Raymond expressed that HopeSource would ultimately prefer to see the shelter return to a faith-based sponsor model.

Ms. Neslund suggested that HopeSource consider engaging faith-based groups to volunteer one day per week, as was done in the past. She indicated that this approach could help reduce the overall operational costs and ease the budget burden.

The Board requested that the CWS Budget increase be sent to the HAHC for their review and recommendation.

LETTER JOINT COUNTY/CITY COMMISSIONERS

Vice-Chairman Cory Wright moved to approve and authorize Chair signature on a Joint City/County Letter to the Department of Ecology and US Bureau of Reclamation, as presented. Commissioner Wachsmith seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

UPDATE WHITE BOARD COMMISSIONERS

The Board reviewed their current whiteboard topics and provided status updates.

DISCUSSION

COUNTY FACEBOOK

COMMISSIONERS

The Board determined that for the week of October 13, 2025, they would post the following on their Facebook page: CDS 30-day comment period regarding transportation, parks, capital facilities, utilities, and economic development until 11/17/2025; WSDOT Winter driving reminder/tips.

UPDATE

BOCC/ DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

COMMISSIONERS

Each Commissioner was assigned three different Department Heads to meet with on a weekly basis for the year. The assignments for 2025 were determined at the Board of County Commissioners Office Admin meeting earlier on and they will continue to provide updates at future meetings.

Each Commissioner reviewed discussions held with their respective departments and exchanged details of those meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS/GENERAL UPDATES - There were general updates on meetings & conversations that the Board participated in, individually, over the past week.

The Board briefly discussed hosting a townhall in the near future, but wants to have a moderator and make sure it's all well thought out to cover hot topics and misinformation in the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RCW 42.30.110 (g)

COMMISSIONERS

At 9:49 a.m. Chairman Osiadacz announced the Board would recess into an Executive Session for 5 minutes with the Board only; under RCW 42.30.110 (g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to RCW 42.30.140(4), discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public. No action anticipated.

At 9:54 a.m. the Board reconvened out of Executive Session. No action taken.

Meeting concluded at 9:54 a.m.

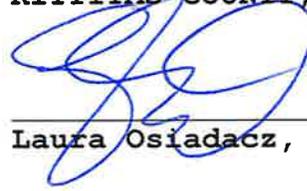
KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR



Mandy Buchholz

KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Laura Osiadacz, Chairman