

**KITTITAS COUNTY**  
**2026 BUDGET MEETING MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOCC AUDITORIUM, 205 WEST 5<sup>TH</sup> ROOM 109 - ELLENSBURG**

<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>	<b>OCTOBER 30, 2025</b>
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**Board members present:** Chairman Laura Osiadacz, Commissioner Cory Wright & Commissioner Brett Wachsmith

**Staff Present:** Zack DeHaven, Bryan Elliott, Andrew Yoder, Sue Patterson  
 Lisa Murray, Amy Cziske, Josh Fredrickson, Chad Bala, Clay Myers,  
 Chris Whitsett

**Others:** Pat Kelleher

1. **Call to Order: 11:00AM**
2. **Citizen Comments – Pat Kelleher via email.**

It looks impressive and reflects a great deal of hard work but let the record show that the alleged “Net Zero Budget” is not, was not, and will not be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) as previously advertised in public meetings.

The option to achieve a “Net Zero Budget” *without causing significant disruption to personnel or services* was never presented to the BOCC for evaluation. Instead, the County continues to “write checks from the cookie jar” — a pattern we’ve seen time and again with school boards, right up until they’re forced to RIF 200 teachers overnight. “They never see it coming” because they never act before the crisis.

Revenues are flat, yet Kittitas County appears unwilling to reduce expenses by even 6% to explore a true Net Zero Budget. Families across the county are tightening their own budgets, while government continues to overspend by the same amount. It’s time for the BOCC to step into the real world.

Regards  
 Pat Kelleher

**Citizen Comment- Pat Kelleher in person:**

Pat Kelleher provided public comment expressing dissatisfaction with the Finance budget. The individual was unhappy that the budget was not at a zero budget and voiced concern regarding the County’s statement that “it was too great of an operational impact.”. Also stating “the County needs to live like families live and balance their budget”

APPROVED

11/18/2025

**3. 2026 Preliminary Budget Meeting-Draft Budget Review and Consider Approval of Draft Budget:**

Zack DeHaven presented an overview of the budget and states the deficit is 1.9MM. Personnel costs now exceed 70% of General Fund revenue, limiting financial flexibility and emphasizing the need for sustainable staffing management. The County continues to address aging facilities through strategic space utilization and long-term planning. Finance also reported progress in maximizing dedicated reserves to address current pressures while maintaining stability and supporting 2026 strategic priorities. Zack DeHaven outlines the Personnel request that have been approved, denied and postponed. Also outlined in the presentation are the Projects that have been approved, denied and postponed.

**The Commissioners had no further comments on the budget and provided no formal direction. The Finance Department will prepare the documents for adoption of the 2026 budget.**

**4. Other Business: None**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:23AM**

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



**Sue Patterson**

**Accountant Assistant III**



**Laura Osiadacz, Chairman**