

KITTITAS COUNTY
2025 BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
BOCC CONFERENCE ROOM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 108 - ELLENSBURG

THURSDAY	1:30PM	DECEMBER 18, 2025,

Board members present: Commissioner Laura Osiadacz & Commissioner Cory Wright

Staff Present: Zack DeHaven, Bryan Elliott, Andrew Yoder, Sue Patterson
 Amy Cziske, Lisa Murray, Chelsey Loeffers, Julie Kjorsvik, Reid
 Burbank and Greg Zempel.

Citizens: Pat Kelleher

1. **Call to Order: 1:31PM**
2. **Citizen Comments – None**
3. **Status Update on Victim Witness Fund and Request for Support Discussion/Decision**

Zack DeHaven explains the request for a one-time transfer of \$100,000 from the 3/10ths Criminal Justice Sales Tax Fund to go into the Victim Witness Fund that has been steadily declining over the years. Mr. Greg Zempel explains the need for funds to help with Victim Witness expenses for justice related operational needs. This money does not need to be paid back.

Commissioner Brett Wachsmith made a motion to approve a one-time transfer from the 3/10th Criminal Justice Sales Tax fund to the Victim Witness Fund of \$100,000 dollars. Commissioner Laura Osiasadcz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

4. **Review of County Paid Leave Changes and Their Organizational Impact- Discussion**

Andrew Yoder explains the increase of usage and the payout amount for 2025. In 2022, the BOCC authorized the Road union to consolidate Vacation and Sick time into PTO, along with increased accrual schedules. Shortly after, the Courthouse and Appraisers unions followed suit, prompting the BOCC to develop a similar conversion for Non-bargained employees. As of this time, the Sheriff Corrections and Line unions are the only groups still using Vacation and Sick.

5. **Resolution Directing Investment Earnings from Identified Funds to Be Deposited into the General Fund- Discussion/ Decision**

APPROVED

1/16/26

Treasurer Amy Cziske presented a resolution to redirect interest earnings from select county funds within the Kittitas County Investment Pool to the County General Fund for general government purposes. The Treasurer explained that county funds are centrally pooled for investment to maximize safety, liquidity, and yield, and that redirecting interest earnings aligns with countywide management of investments. The change would provide a stable and flexible revenue source to support general government operations, help offset rising operating costs, improve budget transparency, and support long-term fiscal sustainability while maintaining prudent investment practices. Approval of the resolution was recommended.

Commissioner Brett Wachsmith made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-257 as stated above. Commissioner Laura Osiadacz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

6. 2026 Budget Process After Action Review – Discussion

Auditor Bryan Elliott talks about the budget timeline and would like feedback for the 2026 budget cycle and establish strategic guidance. Commissioner Brett Wachsmith would like to make the decision process shorter with less meetings to attend. Commissioner Laura Osiadacz agreed.

7. Other Business – Emergency Declaration to be discussed.

Zack DeHaven raised questions regarding the process for determining an Emergency Declaration, including the timing and method for funding departments prior to a declaration being approved. Public Health Director Chelsey Leoffers discussed the impacts on staff, including response expectations, staffing considerations, and time allocation related to emergency funding. It was agreed that a meeting would be scheduled with the Central Services Committee, with participation from the Sheriff's Office, to further discuss these matters.

Bryan Elliott provided an update on the Grandstand project. A construction change order was discussed; however, the change order does not result in an increase to the total project cost and only affects how the existing funds will be allocated.

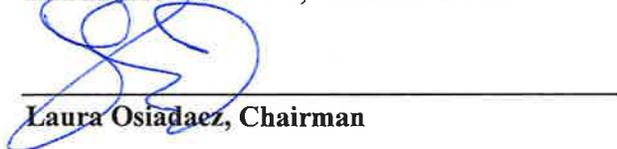
Meeting adjourned at 1:59PM

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Sue Patterson

Accountant Assistant III



Laura Osiadacz, Chairman