

**KITTITAS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S STUDY SESSION MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' AUDITORIUM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 109 - ELLENSBURG
Regular Meeting**

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| WEDNESDAY | 8:00 AM | January 7, 2026 |
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Board members present: Chairman Cory Wright, Vice-Chairman Brett Wachsmith and Commissioner Laura Osiadacz. **Others:** Sheriff Myers, Inspector Chris Whitsett, Chief Admin Deputy Nancy Shaff, Finance Director Zack DeHaven, Chief Civil Deputy Stephanie Hartung, Deputy Prosecutor Miko Tempski, and CDS Director Chad Bala.

Citizen Comments: None.

Discuss process and responsibilities for Abatement: Sheriff Myers mentioned the need for a finer point in this process to include the budget. Stephanie said she has an upcoming meeting with Molly and will work with her. Stephanie also agrees that clarity is needed. Chad said on their end they are working on reviewing documents and rates and working with the Prosecutor Office. Zack agrees there needs an amount in a fund to start, who would manage the cost and identify the responsibilities of that budget and recommended that it fall with CDS. Sheriff Myers added that there would need to be policy guidelines established.

Discuss and acknowledge K9 MOU and donation form between Sheriff's Office and Kittitas County Sheriff's Association: Inspector Chris Whitsett explained the Sheriff's Office intentions to acquire and deploy a patrol K9 to the board along with informing the board that a private party provided Sheriff Myers with a large donation. Inspector mentioned he worked with legal on the donation receipt form, spoke with Finance for a plan in place on the funding and wanted to inform the board for acknowledgment. Motion was moved to pass donation by Chairman Wright.

Other Business: Sheriff Myers wanted to provide an update on the Boating program that there are changes this year and that we can't draw on the 2024/2025 funds unless we have the 2026 year approved. This effects grants, training, contracted instructors, conferences, life jacket programs, all those funded through federal monies until this agreement is signed. As it stands, State Parks funding is stalled, and we are prepared to manage but it affects 2-3 years down the road.

Sheriff Myers mentioned the snowmobile registration has decreased and the discussion as to what are the issues, is it snowmobile sales, climate change or is the program declining and need to adjust the program. Sheriff said he would speak with Chief Kokjer on the operation side and Chairman Wright mentioned he will keep having conversations with State Parks.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 a.m.



Kim Dawson

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Cory Wright, Chairman

APPROVED

2/3/2026