

KITTITAS COUNTY
2026 FINANCE STUDY SESSION MINUTES
BOCC CONFERENCE ROOM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 108 - ELLENSBURG

THURSDAY	1:30PM	JANUARY 15, 2026
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Board members present: Commissioner Laura Osiadacz & Commissioner Cory Wright
Commissioner Brett Wachsmith (excused)

Staff Present: Zack DeHaven, Bryan Elliott, Josh Frederickson, Reid Burbank, Chad Bala, Darren Higashiyama, Patti Stacey, Amy Cziske, Lisa Murray, Dora Van Epps

1. Call to Order: 1:30pm

2. Citizen Comments – None

Commissioner Brett Wachsmith joined the meeting remotely and advised he would not be able to attend the meeting. Commissioners Osiadacz and Wright advised there would be a quorum with two Commissioners and Commissioner Wachsmith logged out of the meeting.

Commissioner Wright advised he would need to leave the meeting before 3pm. Item 8 (Other Business), Item 4 (Reet II) Item 6 (Abatement), and Item 3 (Funding for Emergency Situations) were discussed.

8. Other Business – No Action to be taken

Patti Stacey passed out a change order form she received today for the Rodeo Arena project. She advised she received COP# 12-15 today. She is meeting with the contractor tomorrow, January 16th. Commissioners Wright and Osiadacz asked Patti to review which items are necessary to the project as is versus items that can be addressed at a later date.

Zack DeHaven advised the fire system at the Fairgrounds failed. There is \$20,000 set aside in the Event Center budget for potential fixes. The project is estimated at \$40,000. Zack advised it needs to be fixed sooner than later, and he can do a Q1 budget amendment for the remainder needed for the project. Commissioners Osiadacz and Wright advised to proceed with the repairs and budget amendment.

APPROVED
2/17/26

2. REET II Current Assignment and Potential Alterations to Address Current Needs (Discussion/Decision)

Zack DeHaven reviewed options for the REET II funding. Josh Frederickson reviewed the current parks fund balances and what is expected to be expenses. Road fund may need to use REET II depending on what may arise later. Potential projects include restrooms (pit toilet) at Ryan Thompson park and design for Stone Rd and Manastash projects. Commissioner Osiadacz asked about keeping flexibility. Commissioner Wright discussed other projects where these funds could be used. Auditor Bryan Elliott stated that the BOCC can determine their priority projects. Commissioners Osiadacz and Wright directed Zack De Haven to do analysis on road fund trends, parks fund (calibrate to programming), and facilities projects. The direction was to keep the REET II funds as is and do analysis and get a work group together to determine project phases. Zack will work on the analysis for the next finance study session.

6. Establishing and Managing a Potential Abatement Fund (Discussion/Decision)

Zack DeHaven stated the abatement process involves several county departments. There is question of who manages and who makes decisions regarding abatement. A dedicated abatement fund will allow for better tracking of expenses. To establish this fund, it is recommended to use \$150,000 from General Fund. The abatement process could be a three-year timeline. CDS director Chad Bala stated the abatement fund would be housed in CDS. There would be an MOU with the department working with abatements. The prosecutor's office will review the MOU. Commissioners Osiadacz and Wright agreed to set up a fund for abatements.

3. Funding for Emergency Situations Prior to Official Declaration (Discussion)

Zack DeHaven briefly mentions allocating \$5,000.00 in the Emergency Management fund for emergency situations prior to official declaration. Zack advised he will come back to the next finance study session with a budget amendment for \$5,000

Commissioner Wright asked if Item 5 Sales Tax Update and Item 7 Community Development Services Update can be discussed at a later date. Zack DeHaven advised these items can wait to be discussed later

Meeting adjourned at 1:56PM

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Dora Van Epps

Accountant III



Cory Wright, Chairman