

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

THURSDAY	1:30 PM	May 21, 2026
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Board members present:

Brett Wachsmith, Cory Wright

Others:

Zack Dehaven, Bryan Elliott, Darren Higashiyama, Ben Kokjer, Patti Stacey, Lisa Murray, Reid Burbank, Chelsey Loeffers, Katie Odiaga

Meeting called order at 1:29pm

Citizen Comment: None

EOC/SAR Update:

Zack DeHaven presented the update, and the project has completed the site preparation phase and is now in the construction phase. Total construction funding is \$3,685,000, with \$3,203,545 committed under the current contract and \$181,480 authorized through change orders, leaving an estimated contingency balance of approximately \$300,000. Funding sources include the General Fund, REET, grant funding, and the 3/10ths Sales Tax. Concerns remain regarding the project timeline and the County's ability to meet grant requirements for approximately \$1.2 million in Phase One funding due to potential delays in steel building and generator delivery. Darren Higashiyama provided an update on discussions with the granting agency and the status of grant funding. Patti Stacey spoke about the completed portion of the project.

Public Health Reduction of Funding:

Chelsey Loeffers at Public Health provided an update regarding anticipated revenue reductions of approximately \$425,000 annually, with the potential for additional future reductions. Staff discussed a phased plan to gradually adjust staffing, operations, and services to align with available funding while minimizing layoffs and service disruptions. The Public Health Department is actively searching for additional funding. Public Health may temporarily use available fund balance funds during the transition, but staff noted this is not a long-term solution. Zack DeHaven presented an attrition plan with service level adjustments and General Fund support.

Commissioner Cory Wright expressed support for the tentative plan.

APPROVED
June 2, 2026

County Facilities Core Working Group Charter:

Zack DeHaven presented a proposed County Facilities Core Working Group Charter developed by the Central Services Committee (CSC). The working group would evaluate County facilities, long-term capital needs, and future facility investment options and provide recommendations to the BOCC. The group is intended to remain small and focused while providing periodic updates to County leadership. The Commissioners approved moving forward with the project charter and want final say in the working group selection process.

Review of Financial Statements:

Zack DeHaven presented an overview of Kittitas County’s 2025 financial statements and financial position. The County reported a total net position of \$289 million, with unrestricted net position totaling \$62.7 million. Governmental fund balances increased by \$15.7 million from the prior year, with \$29.5 million available in unassigned General Fund balance. Staff also reviewed the components of the County’s financial statements and supplemental information included in the report.

Certification of Capital Assets:

Zack DeHaven requests the BOCC certification of the County’s Capital Assets.

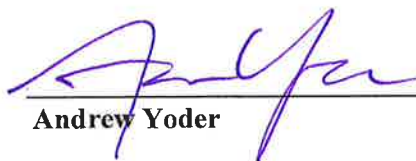
Commissioner Cory Wright calls for a motion to approve the County’s Capital Assets and the Motion passes.

Call for Budget Memo:


Auditor Bryan Elliott presented a memo for BOCC to jointly sign per RCW 36.40.010. Includes budget process schedule. **Commissioner Brett Wachsmith makes a motion to approve and the motion passes.**

OTHER BUSINESS- None

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm



Andrew Yoder

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Cory Wright, Chairman