

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
KVEC ARMORY
SPECIAL MEETING**

THURSDAY

9:00 A.M.

JUNE 25, 2026

Board members present: Chairman Cory Wright, Vice-Chairman Brett Wachsmith, and Commissioner Laura Osiadacz.

Others in attendance: Mandy Buchholz, Office Administrator-BoCC; Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Zack DeHaven, Budget and Finance Director; Andrew Yoder, Finance Manager; Bill Davis, Infrastructure Manager; Zane Kinney, Interim IT Director; Todd Davis, Noxious Weed Director; Bryan Elliott, Auditor; Amy Cziske, Treasurer; Erin Moore, Assistant Public Health Director; Andrea Morse, Extension Agent; Katie Odiaga, Public Health Accountant; Josh Fredrickson, Public Works Director; Reid Burbank, Finance System Manager - DPW; Chad Bala, CDS Director; Jesse Cox, Solid Waste Director; Erica Luce, Solid Waste Assistant; Jeremy Larson, Building Official; Stephanie Mifflin, Assistant Building Official; Kady Porterfield, KVEC Director; Tasha Potter, Chief Administrator - Public Defense; Pat Gigstead, Misdemeanor Probation Director; Maria Gomez - Rios, Lower Dist. Court Administrator; Kari Elkins, Office Administrator - Juv. Probation; Sarah Keith, Superior Court Administrator; Elishia Harvill, Chief Administrator - Prosecutor; Nancy Shaff, Chief Administrative Deputy; Steve Panattoni, Jail Superintendent; Chris Whitsett, Inspector; Cody Cupp, Maintenance Director; Grant Shimada, Administrative Assistant (IT); Stephanie Azure George, Administrative Supervisor (Clerk); Mike Hougardy, Assessor; Christy Garcia, Chief Administrator; Cori McKean, Coroner; Emily Brown, LDC Behavioral Health Court; Eileen Murphy, Public Defense Director.

SPECIAL MEETING

BUDGET RETREAT

COMMISSIONERS

At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Wright opened a Special Meeting for the County's Annual Budget Retreat. He extended his appreciation to the Auditor's Office and acknowledged the growth that has come in this annual process.

Zack DeHaven, Budget & Finance Director, led the County's Budget Retreat, providing an overview of the County's financial position, economic trends, strategic priorities, and the proposed process for development of the 2027 budget. The presentation included a review of revenue and expenditure trends, reserve balances, economic conditions, and the County's long-term fiscal outlook. Discussion focused on structural budget challenges, including personnel cost growth exceeding recurring revenue growth, property tax limitations,

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reduced grant funding availability, and the need to address ongoing operational deficits within the General Fund.

Mr. DeHaven reviewed proposed 2027 strategic priorities, including adoption of a net-zero General Fund budget, continued evaluation of capital infrastructure needs, increased operational efficiency through technology and resource consolidation, and strategic use of reserves to address current financial pressures while maintaining long-term stability. Staff emphasized the importance of aligning annual budget decisions with multi-year strategic planning and focusing resources on core services and organizational priorities.

Mr. DeHaven also reviewed the proposed 2027 budget development process, timelines, workbook structure, budget request procedures, and departmental responsibilities. Departments were advised regarding budget assumptions, personnel review, capital and technology requests, service prioritization, and upcoming deadlines. Discussion included opportunities to improve budget accuracy, strengthen long-term sustainability, and move from annual budget creation to annual budget refinement.

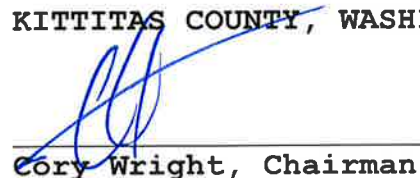
The retreat concluded with breakout discussions regarding strategic priorities, potential budget investments and reductions, fiscal risks facing the County, operational efficiencies, and recommendations for consideration during development of the 2027 budget.

The meeting was concluded at 11:20 a.m.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR


Mandy Buchholz

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Cory Wright, Chairman