

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL MEETING**

MONDAY

10:00 AM

AUGUST 3, 2026

Board members present: Chairman Brett Wachsmith; Vice-Chairman Laura Osiadacz.

Others: Jodi Larsen, Office Administrator; Greg Zempel, Prosecuting Attorney; Jodi Hammond, Chief Criminal Deputy; Stephanie Hartung, Chief Civil Deputy; James McCubbin, Deputy Prosecutor III, Therese Murphy, Deputy Prosecutor III; Elishia Harvill, Chief Administrator; Zack Dehaven, Budget & Finance Director.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: NONE

SPECIAL MEETING: QUARTERLY UPDATE WITH PROSECUTOR COMMISSIONERS

At 10:00 a.m. Chairman Wachsmith called a Special Meeting to order with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office management staff.

The Prosecuting Attorney's Office provided an administrative update, including an overview of grant and funding sources, the impact of funding reductions, and the current status of Fund 130. Chief Administrator Harvill reported that staff are actively pursuing alternative funding sources and grant opportunities to help offset reductions from other funding entities.

Prosecuting Attorney Zemple provided a staffing update, noting that the office anticipates a vacancy effective October 1 and is currently recruiting for the position.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney III James McCubbin presented a litigation letter to ALSC Architects regarding the Ellensburg Rodeo Arena Improvement Project and requested the Chair's signature. Commissioner Osiadacz moved to approve and sign the letter as presented. Chairman Wachsmith seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney III Therese Murphy and Budget and Finance Director Zack DeHaven reported that they are working with the City of Ellensburg to finalize a contract for Office of Public Defense services. Once that agreement is completed, staff plans to pursue similar agreements with the remaining municipalities.

Chief Criminal Deputy Jodi Hammond reviewed current criminal caseloads, reporting a 30% increase in filings since October,

bringing the office's annual caseload to approximately 300 cases. Ms. Hammond stated that staff continue to evaluate workload trends and future caseload projections.

Chief Civil Deputy Stephanie Hartung reported that the Civil Division is fully staffed, allowing the office to process civil matters in a timely and efficient manner.

Prosecuting Attorney Zemple also provided an update on the Central Services Committee (CSC) and its current projects. He thanked Mr. DeHaven for his leadership of the committee and clarified expectations regarding committee reporting.

At 10:31 a.m. Chairman Wachsmith announced the Board would recess into Executive Session for five minutes with Chief Civil Deputy Stephanie Hartung, and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney III James McCubbin, pursuant to **RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)** to discuss with legal counsel matters relating to agency litigation or potential litigation in which public knowledge of the discussion was likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. No action was anticipated.

At 10:36 a.m. **the Board reconvened out of Executive Session.** No action was taken**OTHER BUSINESS - NONE**

The meeting concluded at 10:37 a.m.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Jodi Larsen

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Brett Wachsmith, Chairman