

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

MONDAY

1:00 P.M.

APRIL 11, 2016

Board members present: Chairman Obie O'Brien & Vice-Chairman, Paul Jewell. Commissioner Dist.2 Seat Vacant.

Others: Mandy Buchholz, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Clay Myers, Undersheriff; Greg Zempel, Prosecutor; Judy Pless, Budget & Finance Manager; Doug Mitchell, Deputy Prosecutor

SPECIAL MEETING

EXECUTIVE SESSION

COMMISSIONERS

At 1:01 p.m. Chairman O'Brien opened a Special Meeting and announced the Board would recess into Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. No action anticipated.

At 1:11 p.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session. No action was taken.

At 1:11 p.m. Chairman O'Brien announced the Board would recess back into Executive Session for an additional 5 minutes to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. Possible action anticipated.

At 1:16 p.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session. Prosecutor Greg Zempel stated that at this time there is no resolution to the issue and to await further legal advice.

OTHER BUSINESS

Clay Myers, Undersheriff asked if a discussion could be held regarding the hiring freeze that was put in place on March 30, 2016.

Mr. Myers expressed his concerns and frustrations for not being able to fill vacant positions in the Sheriff's Office as well as for it putting the County at liability being short staffed.

Commissioner Jewell felt it was premature to lift the freeze and explained his concerns. Chairman O'Brien stated he was in favor of filling vacancies but questioned each case being brought forward for the Board to consider. Commissioner Jewell stated that if they move forward and fill the open positions, it could be a far worse outcome later on and much more painful to discuss. He stated that if they move forward now filling the vacancies now then later on if unpopular decisions are made, he cautioned them to not be upset with the BoCC.


Chairman O'Brien was directed to draft a memo lifting the hiring freeze, for current vacant positions and future vacancies should come before the Board for consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


Mandy Buchholz

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Obie O'Brien, Chairman