

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL MEETING**

TUESDAY

1:30 P.M.

AUGUST 22, 2017

Board members present: Chairman Paul Jewell; Vice-Chairman Laura Osiadacz; and Commissioner Obie O'Brien.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Mark Cook, Public Works Director; Lucas Huck, Engineer; Clayton Myers, Undersheriff; Brian White, Department of Transportation; Mark Larson, Public Health Official; Todd Trepanier, Department of Transportation; and approximately 15 members of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING

NELSON SIDING ROAD

PUBLIC WORKS

At 1:30 p.m. **CHAIRMAN JEWELL** opened a Special Meeting to discuss the Nelson Siding Road Traffic/Update Exit 70 Truck Traffic Planning Efforts.

MARK COOK, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR reviewed several options they had come up with that could possibly assist with traffic during peak periods on Interstate 90 near Exits 74 & 78. The options included: Closing the Department of Transportation Ramps at Exit 74 and Exit 78; Variable Message Sign Weekend Notice to Remain on I-90; Barricades at Saint Andrews and Oakmont; Barricades at Old Cedars Road and Type II Removable Barricades at Nelson Siding and Westside Road. He also provided discussion points on each of the options.

MR. TREPANIER said they could look at different options but they need to find out what way it would be best managed. **CHAIRMAN JEWELL** said their hope was to help stop the traffic that bypasses I-90 during the peak times. **COMMISSIONER OSIADACZ** felt the most important closure would be going westbound, and not necessarily eastbound. **CLAY MYERS, UNDERSHERIFF** said it was a very large and complex issue and unfortunately it could not be completely resolved in one meeting. He noted how any changes could affect other businesses in the area besides the golf course and they should be notified as well so they can plan accordingly. He also said they don't have the manpower to monitor closures and determine who gets into the area. An alternate route sign on the freeway may help get some of the traffic to continue rather than get off on the exit.

MR. TREPANIER said the Department of Transportation has never experienced an issue such as this one. He indicated that all of the State grids continue to experience extremely high volumes of summer traffic due to various types of activities and travelers. He noted how any changes need to have an overall information campaign in

order to inform the travelers and use both social and general media coverage. If signs were needed for whatever decision is made, the DOT would probably not be able to assist with the costs of signs. They would only be able grant permission to use them. He explained how they can only do projects that's directed by the Legislature and didn't see things changing in the future on the highway. The problems that they are being faced with are due to the roads being made to well, too fast, and people are using them for the wrong reasons.

There were various suggestions provided from Staff and the public on ways that could potentially help with the traffic.

Commissioner Jewell had to leave the meeting due to a scheduling conflict at 2:44 p.m.

Commissioner Osiadacz said Nelson Siding Road is not alone in the County as there is the same type of issues elsewhere too.

Lucas Huck, Engineer, explained they may not be able to get signs done in a short timeframe before the Labor Day weekend. They would need to first obtain a permit from the DOT and get quotes from the sign department.

Mr. Cook did not feel comfortable with being able to produce and install signs to the Board's expectation on such short notice either. Undersheriff Myers said it would cost an additional \$4,000.00 to have enforcement emphasis from noon to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday and Monday and they would need a budget amendment approved by the Board of Commissioners. He said there is also a public health component to the issue and was hoping Dr. Larson may be able to address it but he had to leave the meeting early.

Commissioner O'Brien moved to direct Staff to request from the Department of Transportation, a closure to Exit 78 westbound only, on the Monday of Labor Day weekend from 10:00 a.m. to midnight. Commissioner Osiadacz seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

The Board indicated they would be supportive of posting two (2) Sheriff's Deputies from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. during that day to assist and the Sheriff's Department would need to submit a budget amendment for the amount it would cost for personnel on that day.

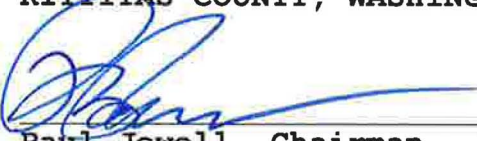
The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD



Julie Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Paul Jewell, Chairman