

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

MONDAY

11:00 A.M.

JULY 30, 2018

Board members present: Chairman, Laura Osiadacz; Vice-Chairman Obie O'Brien and Commissioner Cory Wright.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Dan Carlson, CDS Director; Mike Flory, Building Official; and 8 members of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING

FOUNDATION ONLY PERMITS

CDS

At 11:00 a.m. Chairman Osiadacz opened a Special Meeting to consider Foundation Only Permits.

Dan Carlson, CDS Director explained how they had begun discussions previously about limiting Foundation Only Permits as they are slowing the overall plans review process. He said they have reached out to the building community and notified them of the meeting and for any feedback.

Mike Flory, Building Official reviewed the process for Foundation Only Permits. He said in the past they've tried to get the applications processed within 2 weeks, but this past year they've been hit with a 60% increase in overall building permit applications. He explained how the Foundation Only Permits are not related to fire, life, or safety but only load to ground. He said for every Foundation Only Permit they review, it sets the rest of the permits back. They have currently reviewed 60 of those permits this past year, and each one takes approximately 4 hours to review. They have contracted with outside agencies to assist with reviewing and they are just now beginning to get caught up. Mr. Flory said they are proposing to only accept Foundation Only Permits from August/September to January. Mr. Carlson provided information on their outside contract and other options relating to external and internal Staffing which could bring in some relief.

Dave Reed, a local contractor said he applied for a permit for a small art studio. He said that when he finally submitted his application, the time for review went from 3-4 weeks to 6 weeks. When prioritized over other permits for one time builders they are pushed back due to the Foundation Only Permits. Pat Deneen said the permits are needed but since it can be an 8-10 week process in the summer, and that length of time can almost shut them down. He doesn't see how they can live without those permits and believed it's more of a Staffing issue. He does not see it slowing down

anytime soon. Tim Merrel said he did not want to see the Foundation Only Permit go away. He didn't feel one month was more important than another and would like to assist in working together for a solution.

It was suggested to have SAFEbuilt who the County is currently contracting with, perform a peer review prior to submitting the permits to CDS, but Mr. Flory worried about it would push other applications further down the timeline. He said there could be others who could do the review but they need to know the local area (snow load requirements, etc.) before they'd let other private entities do the review.

Commissioner O'Brien said he would be in favor of ramping up Staff and get them up to speed. Chairman Osiadacz felt that hearing from the building community it's been made clear that we're not in the position to get rid of Foundation Only Permits, as it could essentially hurt economics and possibly contribute further to lack of housing within the County. She said she would like to have Staff to look at options including obtaining additional contractors; increase Staff; and if the builders could be allowed to find contractors for themselves prior to bringing it to the County. Commissioner Wright said he'd like to explore more options including having a professional plans review agency located within the County. He said he's in favor of allowing the private sector to make money and it would maybe take pressure off of County Staff. By having an agency in the County it would possibly allow for the builders to pay more money in order to get it pushed through quicker. Commissioner Wright said he appreciated the building community's input and asked them to work with the County in trying to resolve the issue.

The Board provided direction to Staff and to look into options and bring it back to the Board of County Commissioners at a later date.

Commissioner O'Brien moved to not change the Foundation Only Permit process through this calendar year. Commissioner Wright seconded. Motion carried 3-0

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD


Julie Kjorsvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Laura Osiadacz, Chairman