

**KITTITAS COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS STUDY SESSION MINUTES
In-Person and Webex
Regular Meeting**

MONDAY

1:30 PM

November 8, 2021

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

Others In-Person: Mark Cook, Rebecca Cruse, Public Works; Dan Carlson, Community Development Services; Kristine Foreman, Human Resources.

Others Virtual: Jessica Miller, Mike Flory, Community Development Services; Neil Caulkins, Prosecutors Office; (2) Members of the Public.

At 1:33 pm Chairman Brett Wachsmith opened the Public Works Study Session.

LEGACY PLANNING FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS FISCAL DEPARTMENT

Mark Cook stated that Public Works is recommending that the BOCC look at succession planning for the anticipated retirement of current managerial roles in Public Works. Mark Cook continued that in planning for the Finance Managers retirement and replacement, Management staff would like to create a Lead Fiscal Analyst position to insure the department has no gaps in the current service provided by Public Works. Discussion was held. Staff was directed to draft a job description for the position.

DIAMOND PARKING CONTRACT UPDATE

Mark Cook briefed the Board on the scope of work being performed under contract with Diamond Parking Services and Public Works' solicitation for tow companies and partnerships in the private sector have been unsuccessful. Mark Cook continued that Public Works recommends adding or increase illegal parking fines to discourage the illegal parking on county roads specifically in the travel way. Mark Cook added that the final report from Diamond Parking Services will be presented to the board once complete. Discussion was held regarding snow removal on mountain passes, and the impact of the vaccine mandated firings of workers in the DOT Southcentral Region. Mark Cook stated that Public Works has been asked by several stakeholders to provide snow removal coverage due to the employee shortage, however, Public Works doesn't have the staff or resources to contribute. The BOCC stated that the shortage of workers dedicated to snow removal could pose a public safety concern. The BOCC stated that a letter to the state should be drafted to address this concern.

APPROVED

12/7/21

DICKEY CREEK RIGHT OF WAY

Mark Cook shared the concern over the approach of Dickey Creek Bridge and a solution has been found for the realignment of right of way to improve traffic safety. Mark Cook is requesting the Board to approve a boundary line adjustment as proposed by Washington State Department of Natural Resources so the project can continue. The BOCC supports the boundary line adjustment and staff was directed to move forward with the necessary applications.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 2:08 pm Chairman Brett Wachsmith announced that staff would enter into Executive Session for 10 minutes, with Carly Brettmann, Communication Director, and Kristine Foreman, Human Resources Director to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to RCW 42.30.140(4), discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public.

At 2:19 pm the Board announced they would continue the executive session for an additional ten (10) minutes. Board reconvened from executive session at 2:24 pm.

At 2:25 pm Chairman Brett Wachsmith announced that staff would enter Executive Session for fifteen (15) minutes with Mark Cook, Public Works Director, and Neil Caulkins, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney per RCW 42.30.110(b) to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price.

At 2:40 pm Chairman Brett Wachsmith announced the Board would recess back into Executive Session for an additional five (5) minutes. The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 2:46 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:46 pm.

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rebecca Cruse, Administrative
Assistant



Brett Wachsmith, Chairman