

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

MONDAY

10:00 A.M.

JUNE 5, 2023

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Amy Cziske, Treasurer; Mike Hougardy, Assessor; David Ohl, Airport Director; Ben Kokjer, Chief Deputy; Bryan Elliott, Auditor; Kady Porterfield, Event Center Director; Chelsey Loeffers, Public Health Administrator; Brian Carlson, Budget & Finance Director; Karen Bowen, Clerk; Katrina Mankus, Juvenile Court Administrator; and approximately 5 members of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING

PROPOSED COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Wright opened a Special Meeting to consider the possibility of a County Administrator position. He said a report and recommendations from the County Executive Management Advisory Committee had been prepared, sent out, and available to the public as well.

Amy Cziske, Management Team Executive Committee Chairman, said the Management Team reviewed the report at their meeting on May 19th and there were concerns expressed about space, salary, and the organizational structure. She said the Management Team did vote to recommend a County Administrator model, but they would like their concerns addressed prior to the Board making their determination. She indicated they would also like to have representation on a transition team and an update each month to the Management Team.

Ben Kokjer, Chief Deputy, said the Management Team mostly voted in favor to fully support a County Administrator model and there was no opposition voiced. Mike Hougardy, Assessor, explained how the committee had done a lot of research and they looked at different governmental structures from other counties. He said the questions that have been raised are valid and should be addressed, but the Management Team shouldn't be the ones who provide those answers. Bryan Elliott, Auditor, said most of the questions that were raised at the meeting were driven by the Department Heads as they were the ones who would most likely be impacted. Kady Porterfield, Event Center Director, said it would be beneficial to have a transition team and to allow Department Heads the opportunity to provide input whether they are on that team or not. She said the funding should be addressed first to ensure it's even a possibility, and then if it's available, create a transition team to begin their work.

Commissioner Osiadacz felt there were a lot of questions that needed be answered prior to moving forward including what the organizational chart would look like; the availability of funding; and level of bureaucracy. She said for it to be successful there should first be a transition team put in place and also represented by Department Heads.

Vice-Chairman Wachsmith said he'd be in favor of forming an internal committee exploration team to look at the questions, concerns, and funding, but noted it was not a done deal. He questioned where the funding would come from as there's been difficulty just keeping County buildings in working order.

Chelsey Loeffers, Public Health Administrator, suggested that the Board dedicate resources to bring in outside assistance who has expertise in organizational structure and could look at the big picture. Brian Carlson, Budget & Finance Director, encouraged everyone to think about the benefits of what the Board could be working on instead of doing day-to-day administration.

Chairman Wright said he's been supportive of a County Administrator from the beginning. He explained that although he chaired the committee and promoted discussion between the members, he was cautious about not weighing in on his own views. He reviewed an extensive list of committees that the Commissioners currently serve on and if they had more time to dedicate, they'd be able to have a voice at the table on some of the State and National committees.

Brian Carlson and Bryan Elliott said they could put together a financial report based on market study and a price tag based on similar counties and provide it to the Board. Upon receipt of the report the Board said they'd have another meeting.

Amy Cziske, Treasurer, reminded the Board that the Management Team wanted to be involved in whatever process they determine. Commissioner Osiadacz said she would provide a report at the next Management Team meeting.

The meeting was concluded at 10:45 a.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Julie Kjorsvik


Cory Wright, Chairman