

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

MONDAY

6:00 P.M.

JULY 10, 2017

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Dan Carlson, CDS Director; Dusty Pilkington, Staff Planner and approximately 20 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

SOLAR PROJECT MORATORIUM EXTENSION

CDS

At 6:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN JEWELL** opened a Public Hearing to consider an extension of a moratorium on solar projects that qualify as major alternative energy systems.

DAN CARLSON, CDS DIRECTOR provided a Staff Report on consideration of continuing a moratorium on solar projects that qualify as major alternative energy systems including the background, proposed work plan, analysis and recommendation. He said the work plan was developed for adopting standards and/or criteria within one year of placement of the moratorium. The Plan also included the formation of a Citizen Advisory Committee; Inventory, Studies, Analysis; Community Open Houses; Public Review and Comments on Draft Regulations; a Hearing by the Planning Commission; SEPA; and a Public Hearing and decision by the Board of County Commissioners. It was noted they hoped to get the process completed by the end of 2017.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: **PAT CLERF** read testimony into the record from Patricia Clerf encouraging the Board to extend the moratorium in hopes to prevent developers from applying to EFSEC. She thought additional time was needed to allow the County to find more appropriate locations for the industrial, utility solar projects. **JEFF DUNNING** submitted written comments into the record and felt a countywide moratorium toward solar development on all lands seemed somewhat drastic considering what brought it about which was a proposed small solar project in irrigated agricultural land, and the opposition seems to be largely based on aesthetics. **JENNIFER NELSON, WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE** submitted a letter into the record, noting they neither support or oppose the solar projects, but would like to provide general guidance to avoid or minimize impacts to fish and wildlife habitats from solar energy development. They hoped that a representative could be to be a part of the Citizens Advisory Committee. **JAMES CARKNER** said he was in favor of solar projects as a taxpayer but opposed placing them on

farmlands. He felt placing solar projects in sage brush areas would be a better fit rather than agricultural lands. **KAREN POULSEN** said she owns property near the 2 proposed solar projects. She spoke in favor of extending the moratorium to allow for further review and to set up ground rules for siting and other criteria. **STAN BLAZYNSKI** submitted information into the record including excerpts from Wikipedia relating to the largest German photovoltaic power stations. He recommended extending the moratorium. **MARY MORGAN** expressed concerns relating to the placement of large solar projects on farmlands. She explained how the land is completely sterilized when solar projects are put in place and suggested coming up with ideas for appropriate placement of the projects. **TONI SNOWDEN** read a letter into the record on behalf of Mary Clerf-Christianson who supported an extension of the moratorium. Ms. Snowden felt it was taking farmlands away and felt the County should not rush into making any quick decisions and take the necessary time to do the appropriate research. **DARCY POULSEN** spoke in opposition of placing large solar projects in commercial agricultural lands. She felt those types of properties were a dying resource and needed to be protected. **THERE BEING NO OTHERS TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

MR. CARLSON indicated if the Board was to approve extending the moratorium, their decision would be effective today and they could provide enabling documents on the next Agenda for their approval.

COMMISSIONER OSIADACZ moved to extend the moratorium on solar projects that qualify as major alternative energy systems and to direct Staff to prepare enabling documents. **CHAIRMAN JEWELL** seconded.

COMMISSIONER OSIADACZ felt additional time was needed to review the issue through the Citizens Advisory Committee and to research where it makes the most sense to allow the placement of projects in the future. **CHAIRMAN JEWELL** said he was also in favor of taking additional time to work through all of the issues by a Citizens Advisory Group. He felt the work plan was well put together. He encouraged everyone from both sides of the issue to apply to be a part of the Advisory Committee.

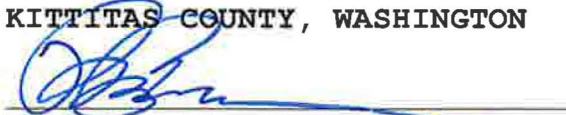
Motion carried 2-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD


Julie Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Paul Jewell, Chairman