

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
901 EAST 7TH AVE - ARMORY A
SPECIAL MEETING**

THURSDAY

9:00 A.M.

FEBRUARY 21, 2019

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Mark Cook, Public Works Director/Interim Engineer; Peggy L. Morache, Executive Director of FISH Community Food Bank; and 5 members of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING

FISH COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

COMMISSIONERS

At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Wright opened a Special Meeting to consider a proposal from the FISH Community Food Bank.

Peggy Morache, Executive Director of the FISH Community Food Bank, explained how there was an urgent need for them to find a new location for their meal services including Senior Nutrition, dining area and administrative offices by June 2019. They have reached out to another church that is looking at the possibility of allowing them to temporarily relocate so those services are not interrupted. She noted they have a very good relationship with Mercer Creek Church and there is no animosity between the two of them, but both organizations have reached a point of outgrowing their needs. The remaining Food Bank and Food Pantry must be off of the Mercer Creek Church campus by January 2020. She said they were requesting assistance from Kittitas County including the use of the building adjacent to the airport that is currently used by Elmview, or approximately 2.5 acres of land where they could construct a new building including a commercial kitchen; space for social service agencies for one-on-one meetings to assist FISH clients; a permanent location for Ellensburg Cold Weather Shelter that would provide shower and laundry space for guests; as well as education programs on topics related to cultivating better eating habits, healthy life styles, budgeting and other quality of life issues. They are anticipating mobile pantries to serve the Upper County and Kittitas areas, as well as a site on the Central Washington University campus.

Chairman Wright said he understood the value of the services FISH provides to Kittitas County but explained the reasons why he would not be in favor of relocating out at the airport area. He said when the area of the airport is built, it would be industrial and the FISH Food Bank

didn't seem to be a good fit in that area. He offered to look at other potential options for the short term. Commissioner Wachsmith expressed his support of allowing FISH Food Bank to relocate to the Elmview building. He felt they have always been good neighbors and well respected in the community. Commissioner Osiadacz supported their request to relocate to the Elmview building and felt it made sense for them to utilize the space.

Ms. Morache reviewed the plans they'd like to see in a future building of approximately 14,500 square feet, which would make it both comfortable and appealing to the community.

The Board expressed their support of relocating FISH Community Food Bank to the Elmview building and directed Mr. Cook to put together a Resolution for the Board's consideration at a later date.

Mark Cook, Public Works Director/Interim Engineer explained the logistics and process that FISH would need to go through including a lease model and offered assistance. The Board of County Commissioners expressed their support of Mr. Cook providing assistance to FISH.

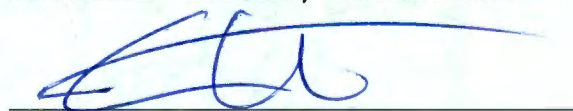
Chairman Wright said although he didn't necessarily support the idea of relocating FISH out to the airport area because of the possible future plans, the other two Commissioners were in favor of the request and therefore he would support their efforts as they are a valuable asset to our community. He offered to draft a letter of support for the Boards consideration to assist them with possible future funding options, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD


Julie Kjorsvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Cory Wright, Chairman