

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

**TUESDAY**

**3:30 P.M.**

**MAY 25, 2021**

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

Others via Webex: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Greg Zempel, Prosecutor; Elishia Harvill, Chief Administrator; Jodi Hammond, Chief Criminal Deputy; Chris Horner, Deputy Prosecutor III; Amy Cziske, Treasurer; Stephanie Hartung, Deputy Prosecutor III; Judy Pless, Budget & Finance Manager; Val Barschaw, Clerk; Barb Demory, Lower County District Court Administrator; Sarah Keith, Superior Court Administrator.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**BLAKE DECISION**

**PROSECUTOR**

At 3:30 p.m. Chairman Wachsmith opened a Special Meeting to receive an update on the Blake decision and process for reimbursing legal financial obligations.

Greg Zempel, Prosecutor reviewed the recent Blake decision and the possible financial impacts to the State, as well as local impacts. He indicated the meeting was just to provide an update to the Board on what he is currently aware of. He said the State has said they would be responsible for funding the reimbursements back to the Counties and Cities, but the exact details are unknown at this time. There are cases that date back to 1971 in which people can claim reimbursement for fines they have paid relating to the Blake decision made by the Supreme Court. Mr. Zempel said they began working on this as soon as the decision was made, even though they are already backlogged due to COVID-19. He said they have been internally discussing the reimbursement process and determined people will need to file a Claim for Damages form with the Auditor's office. By filing it as a Claim for Damages, it will allow for internal tracking and providing documentation to the State for reimbursement.

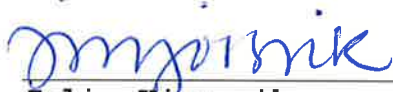
Jerry Pettit, Auditor said the claims process would work best for their office as well. Val Barschaw, Clerk provided some history of fines, their records, and noted she had not seen what the Claim for Damages form looks like. She felt the claims process would take additional time for her Staff to process. Barb Demory, Lower County Administrator said their system does not go back prior to 2005. Mr. Zempel said the farther back people request reimbursement of their fines, the more difficult it will be to find information, but the

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County can only do what they can do. Judy Pless, Budget & Finance Manager recommended that Staff use Novatime to code their time including the Courts, Clerks, and Prosecutors so they can run a report when submitting for reimbursement to the State. She said it would be able to list the percentage of the employees benefits as well. She said any reimbursements would come out of the General Fund. The Board thanked everyone for their updates and information relating to the Blake decision.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

**CLERK OF THE BOARD**

  
Julie Kjorsvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
Brett Wachsmith, Chairman