

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
STUDY SESSION**

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

JANUARY 28, 2003

Board members in attendance: Max Golladay, Perry Huston & Bruce Coe

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Mark Johnson, Fair Manager; and Ellensburg Rodeo Board members Rick Cole and Joel Smith.

At approximately 9:00 a.m. **CHAIRMAN GOLLADAY** opened a study session to consider a request from the Ellensburg Rodeo Board, to amend their contract.

MR. SMITH said the Rodeo Board has signed a contract with the PRCA, in partnership to have a Bull Riding event on the Saturday evening of the Fair. He said they are hoping the Bull Riding event would draw an exceptionally large crowd and would be televised on ESPN. He mentioned the PRCA would also be putting up a \$75,000 purse. According to their contract with the PRCA, the Rodeo Board would receive the first \$50,000 net profit, and the next \$30,000 would go to the PRCA. Any remaining profits from the event would be split equally between them. The contract excludes advertising, insurance, security, professional ticket takers and taxes, therefore the Rodeo Board would be also responsible for those expenses. He reported the current lighting in the arena is approximately 20 years old, and it does not have sufficient lighting for a nationally televised event. The Rodeo Board has offered to pay for new lighting in the area, which would cost approximately \$25-30,000 including new standards, cans, and bulbs. The funds would come from the Gold Buckle Club. They proposed an amendment to the contract with the County, in which they would pay the County \$1.00 per seat. They hoped that with the new event, it would bring an additional 9,000 people. **RICK COLE** reminded the Board that they were challenged to utilize the facility Saturday night during the Labor Day Weekend, and if they were not using it, it would be up to the Fair to find an event to try and create revenue. The Board expressed several concerns they had with the proposal. The Board of Commissioners acknowledged the new lights would be an asset to the County and felt would be great opportunity to have the event nationally televised. They advised the Rodeo Board that if they approved their request, they would need to come back and renegotiate the contract for next year, and be willing to increase the amount of money (per ticket sold) to the County.

The Board of Commissioners agreed to amend the Contract with the Rodeo Board for this year only, at a rate of \$1.00 per seat gross, (not a percentage of seats sold), and to place the amendment on the Commissioner's February 4th Agenda for formal action.

The study session was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

APPROVED
2/4/03