

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
PUBLIC HEARING**

TUESDAY

6:00 P.M.

AUGUST 31, 2004

Board members present: Chairman Perry D. Huston; Vice-Chairman Bruce Coe and Commissioner Max Golladay.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Warren Beed, Facilities Maintenance Director; Clayton Myers, Undersheriff; David Bowen, Auditor; Amy Mills, Treasurer; Bert Marx, Sheriff's Department; and approximately 15 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

JAIL PROJECT

COMMISSIONERS

At 6:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN HUSTON** opened the public hearing continued from August 17, 2004, to consider whether a .3 cent increase in the sales tax should be placed on the ballot to fund the construction and operation of a new jail facility and remodel existing structures. He explained there had been new construction estimates submitted by Lombard-Conrad Architects, P.A. in the total amount of \$15,024,500.00. He reviewed a draft Resolution that he had hoped for the cities to approve, which would dedicate the cities portion of the sales tax increase collected, for the construction and operation of a new correctional facility.

CLAYTON MYER, UNDERSHERIFF, reviewed the new construction estimates submitted by LCA. **COMMISSIONER GOLLADAY** noted the sales tax would be increased to 8% for the cost of construction, if it were passed by the voters. **AMY MILLS, TREASURER**, reviewed three alternate bond sizing approaches provided by Susan D. Musselman, Inc. (0%, ½ of 1%, 1%), noting the interest rates for each scenario was based on current market rates plus ½ of 1% cushion. **COMMISSIONER GOLLADAY** questioned how the County could proceed without first obtaining the cities support, and taking the risk of not receiving their portion needed to fund the project.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: **FRED KRUGER** submitted a letter into the record dated August 31, 2004, outlining his concerns including the lack of verifiable data/statistics and a conspiracy of silence in the local justice system. He felt there was a problem with the size and cost of the project. **LINDA KRUGER** felt the Board should wait to place the issue before the voters, until there was more detailed information available for the citizens to review. **LESS THOMPSON** agreed that more information was needed before a vote should be taken. **JEFF LEANOR** said he would not support the issue, and that

more information was needed. **DON DAVIS** announced he had been on the Citizens Advisory Committee and there had not been a coordinated effort from the Judges and Prosecutor. He felt their only concern for the project was the square footage of their offices. **STEVE HUNT** said he had collected data from other counties and he disputed the number of personnel it would take to run such a large facility. He felt the numbers did not add up and said there were better things to do with the money, such as placing more deputies on the streets. He said the only way the County would keep good personnel is to pay them good wages. **FRANK JONES speaking on behalf of People for Ethical Government** suggested alternatives to expanding the jail to include increased pay for deputies increase the amount of Deputy Prosecutors and make the public defender more visible. He said the County should obtain the cities support before making a decision.

COMMISSIONER GOLLADAY explained that with the current information that had been presented, he could not support placing issue on the ballot without having the cities support. **COMMISSIONER COE** encouraged citizens to tour the jail and look at the structural problems and current conditions.

CHAIRMAN HUSTON moved to continue the public hearing to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday September 15, 2004, in the Commissioner's Auditorium; written record to remain open; and to possibly take public testimony on that evening. **COMMISSIONER COE** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Julie A. Kjorsvik

Perry D. Huston, Chairman