

**KITTITAS COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UPPER DISTRICT COURT - CLE ELUM, WASHINGTON  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY**

**6:00 P.M.**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2005**

Board Members present: Chairman Perry Huston, Vice-Chairman David Bowen and Commissioner Alan Crankovich.

Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Amy Mills, Treasurer; Joyce Julsrud, Clerk; Michael Cooper, Superior Court Judge; Clay Myers, Undersheriff; Gene Dana, Sheriff; Linda Childs, Upper District Court Administrator; Scott Sparks, Superior Court Judge; Bert Marx, Corrections; Tom Swenson, Facilities Maintenance Director; Greg Zempel, Prosecutor; Jerry Pettit, Auditor and 3 members of the public.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**LAW & JUSTICE PROPOSALS**

**SHERIFF**

At approximately 6:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN HUSTON** opened the public hearing to consider proposed options from the Law & Justice Facility to be placed on the November ballot.

**GENE DANA, SHERIFF** gave a power point presentation and explained the history of the jail, its current state of overcrowding as well as various problems with the Courthouse facility. He also reviewed each of the options that were put forth by the Law & Justice committee.

**AMY MILLS, TREASURER** reviewed a tax breakdown for the options submitted by the committee. **CLAY MYERS, UNDERSHERIFF** reviewed design options for the jail and its current space needs. **GREG ZEMPEL, PROSECUTOR** explained that with the increased growth within the County, there was an extreme need for additional space for both the jail and Courthouse. He noted that with the cost projections for the jail alone, the construction price was increased by 1 million dollars in just one year. **MICHAEL COOPER, SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE** explained the increased case load in Superior Court and said there had been another Judge added in 2004 to assist with the case load. He reviewed their current space needs for the current staff and claimed they would need another Courtroom within the next two years. **SCOTT SPARKS, SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE** reviewed the security issues and risks within the Courtrooms and offices and felt they needed to be addressed immediately. **AMY MILLS, TREASURER**

expressed concerns of her staff's health problems due to air quality problems within her office located in the Courthouse. **JOYCE JULSRUD, CLERK** explained there was not adequate space that is needed for Courthouse employees as well as a lack of storage space. She felt there were various hazardous conditions that also need to be addressed. **JERRY PETTIT, AUDITOR** reviewed the lack of space in the Courthouse and public safety issues that need to be addressed for not only the employees, but the public as well. **TOM SWENSON, FACILITIES MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR** addressed the urgent need to update the jail and Courthouse facilities. He expressed his support of the design concept that had been provided. **GREG ZEMPEL, PROSECUTOR** addressed the lack of space in the jail and Courthouse as well as the current security risks and liabilities to the County. He reviewed the increased crime and the severity of those over the past 15 years. He felt the proposal was the most cost effective and logical approach possible.

**THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: NONE**

**COMMISSIONER BOWEN** acknowledged a letter that was received from Fred Kruger including his recommendations.

**COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** felt that the security, safety and efficiency were owed to not only staff but also the public.

**CHAIRMAN HUSTON** encouraged those who were not able to attend the public hearing to write a letter, email or telephone the Commissioner's office with their comments.

**CHAIRMAN HUSTON** moved to continue the public hearing to Monday September 12, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hal Holmes Center, Ellensburg, Washington. **COMMISSIONER BOWEN** seconded. Motion carried 3-0. It was noted that the record would remain open.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

**CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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**Julie A. Kjorsvik**

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**Perry D. Huston, Chairman**