

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

**TUESDAY**

**4:00 P.M.**

**MAY 16, 2006**

Board members present: Chairman David Bowen and Commissioner Perry Huston. Absent: Vice-Chairman Alan Crankovich.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; James Hurson, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor; Iris Rominger, Assessor; Kirk Eslinger, Human Resources Director; William Holmes, Director of Probation Services; Scott Bradshaw, Public Works Director; Greg Zempel, Prosecutor; and approximately 8 members of the public.

**PUBLIC HEARING            NON-EXCLUSIVE IRRIGATION FRANCHISE            PUBLIC WORKS**

At approximately 4:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN BOWEN** opened a public hearing to consider granting a Non-Exclusive Irrigation Franchise on Reecer Creek Road which would run for approximately 2,600 in the County Road Right-of-Way.

**SCOTT BRADSHAW, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS** explained that a request for an Irrigation Franchise with Eastside Development, Inc. had been requested in the Currier Creek Estates Plat. After review of the request, he recommended approval. **MR. BRADSHAW** received a phone call from Mr. Moorefield stating there is no current easement to reach the town ditch, but he anticipated granting one for the Currier Creek Estates Plat.

**COMMISSIONER HUSTON** asked if there was an existing delivery system. **MR. BRADSHAW** stated he was not aware of one. **CHAIRMAN BOWEN** recognized letter dated May 16, 2006 from Marvin Sterkel, Sr.; Shirleen Sterkel, Marvin Sterkel, Jr. and Cassy Sterkel opposing the request.

**THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING:** **MIKE PEARSON** questioned how the request was going to be done because they have a fence going along their property line. **BRIAN STICKNEY** explained he was working on the project and offered to give his phone number out for the public to ask questions.

**COMMISSIONER HUSTON** asked if there was a contract for water with the Town Ditch. **MR. STICKNEY** indicated they did have a contract in place with the Town Ditch and they were in the final stages of getting an easement with Mr. Moorefield.



said the rule eliminates a situation for people continually using the system without taking some responsibility to try and gain some additional income for themselves. **COMMISSIONER HUSTON** was confused on Section 3.5 which implies after every 12 consecutive month which resets. **MR. PETTIT** said a person could start over every 12 months and suggested firming up the language. **MAURICE SYLVESTRIE, MEMBER AT LARGE** clarified language for 12 month rule. **COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** asked for clarification of 4.2 and whats the definition of the extreme exceptions to rule. **MR. PETTIT** said he was also concerned with how to identify and define an exceptional case? **BILL ROBINSON, CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY BOARD** said extreme exceptions would include if the person had truly tried and used all other efforts throughout the 12 month to gain additional funds and was still in need of assistance. He said if the person fails to follow through, they would forfeit using funds until such time they have been looking for employment etc.

**RAY FLETCHER** asked what would happen since the coalition was out of funds as of May 10, 2006. **CHAIRMAN BOWEN** said they were currently doing a budget review and will be able to do a budget amendment. **CHAIRMAN HUSTON** encouraged Mr. Pettit & the Veteran's Advisory Council to create a fiscal note to be included during the upcoming County budget retreat. **THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

The Board asked for the committee to expand Section 4.2 and request they bring back the language along with a Resolution that would adopt the manual on June 6, 2006.

**COMMISSIONER HUSTON** moved to continue the public hearing to Tuesday June 6, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Auditorium, Room 109, County Courthouse. **COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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**PUBLIC HEARING****DECLARE EQUIPMENT SURPLUS****AUDITOR**

At approximately 4:44 p.m. **CHAIRMAN BOWEN** opened a public hearing to consider a Resolution declaring surplus equipment.

**JERRY PETTIT, AUDITOR** presented the Board with a list of items to consider surplus, as well as a Resolution. He said the annual joint County/City of Ellensburg surplus sale has been set for June 3, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Kittitas County Event Center.

**THERE BEING NO ONE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** moved to approve Resolution No. 2006-78, Declaring Surplus County Property, to be auctioned at the June 3, 2006 joint County/City of Ellensburg Surplus Sale. **COMMISSIONER HUSTON** seconded.

**COMMISSIONER HUSTON** suggested getting a notice out listing the items to be surplusd prior to the sale on June 3, 2006. **MR. PETTIT** indicated the Treasurer may already be posting the list when advertising the sale.

Motion carried 3-0.

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**PUBLIC HEARING                      2007 ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES                      COMMISSIONERS**

At approximately 4:45 p.m. **CHAIRMAN BOWEN** opened a public hearing to consider setting salaries for Elected Officials for the terms beginning 2007.

**KIRK ESLINGER, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR** reviewed a staff report on the Compensation Committee recommendations for Elected Officials salaries for the terms commencing on January 1, 2007. He noted the filing period for those positions are in July. The recommended salaries were to be increased by 3.9% effective January 1 of each subsequent year of the term from January 2007 through January 2010.

**THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: GREG ZEMPEL, PROSECUTOR** stated for the record, that he had already announced he is running for another term of Prosecutor, needless of what the Board decides to do with the salaries. He noted the Compensation Committee had a difficult job in determining salaries. He did not disagree with what the committee has done when it came to process, but felt the County should carefully consider their comparisons when setting Elected Officials salaries. For instance, Whitman County uses Kittitas County as their comparison and takes 80% of what the salary is and then uses it. He compared the significant differences in salaries between the Superior Court Judges, which are set by the State Salary Commission and the County Prosecutor which is set by the Board. He questioned what the message is sending out to the public as to the Prosecutors position in the County? He suggested demonstrating value to the public in the Prosecutor's office and recommended move the salary towards the \$100,000.00 mark, more imparity with the Judges, who also work hard, but have less responsibilities to the citizens of County than that of a Prosecutor. **THERE BEING NO ONE ELSE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**CHAIRMAN BOWEN** felt the Superior Court Judges salaries may be out of line, but those are set by a State committee and the Board has no authority over those. He said he understood the Prosecutor's responsibilities including their workload, supervisory, etc. but if he took same with the Commissioner positions, they could be up in the same range too. He realized performance varies from one Elected Official to another. He indicated the Board of County Commissioners set Elected Official salaries and they try to find a fair and equitable way to establish those, and need to follow rules same as expected or they may lose credibility with others in the County.

**COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** said although comparable counties used by Kittitas County sometimes don't match up, Kittitas County can be unique. He appreciated the Prosecutor's comments. **MR ZEMPEL** said he was not trying to get an exception for Prosecutor's office, outside of process.

**RESOLUTION 2006-79                      ELECTED OFFICIAL SALARIES                      COMMISSIONERS**

**COMMISSIONER HUSTON** moved to approve Resolution No. 2006-79, Setting Salaries for Elected Official terms beginning January 1, 2007, including County Assessor; County Auditor; County Clerk; County Commissioner - District #3; Prosecuting Attorney; County Sheriff and County Treasurer.

**COMMISSIONER HUSTON** hoped the Compensation committee lends some thought and take into consideration what the Prosecutor was saying, but he was unsure what to do with it. **CHAIRMAN BOWEN** thanked Kirk Eslinger and the Compensation Committee for getting the salary review done in a timely manner.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

**CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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**Julie A. Kjorsvik**

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**David Bowen, Chairman**