

**KITTITAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
UPPER DISTRICT COURT – CLE ELUM, WA.**

TUESDAY

6:00 P.M.

JUNE 27, 2006

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Jerry Pettit, Auditor and 8 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

HOSPITAL DIST. 2

COMMISSIONERS

At 6:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN BOWEN** opened a special meeting to consider a Petition filed by the Snoqualmie Pass Community within the Hyak Precinct, to withdraw from the Kittitas County Hospital District 2, located within the Snoqualmie Pass area described as all that portion of Section 4, Township 22 N Range 1 E, EXCEPT that portion located in King County. Also, all of Section 9, 11, 14, 15, 23 and 26 Township 22 N, Range 11 E, and to further consider the findings and recommendations from Public Hospital District No. 2 Board of Commissioners that the withdrawal would not be of benefit to the territory because the petitioners did not demonstrate that withdrawal would generate better services within the territory at less or no greater cost to the territory; and the proposed withdrawal would not be conducive to the general welfare of the balance of the Hospital District because the District would lose essential revenue under the M&O and EMS levies in future years.

CHAIRMAN BOWEN referenced an email dated June 26, 2006 from Chris Caviezel relating to the Petition that had been filed and notifying the Board that he would not be in attendance at the hearing, due to his being on military duty in South Carolina. He also recognized an email dated June 26, 2006 from Matthew Cowan stating he would not be in attendance as well.

RUSS HOBBS FROM FIRE DISTRICT NO. 7 spoke on behalf of Chris Caviezel and explained the reasons for submitting the Petition. They felt they were not being represented by Hospital District #2 and explained how their Fire District loses valued paramedics for a significant length of time when they get a call and have to transport patients to North Bend, which causes a significant amount of lost time when they're out of service for the area.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: SUSAN BLACK from the Hyak/Snoqualmie Pass area expressed concerns with the Petition that had been submitted. She felt the Petitioners had not provided evidence of their intention for replacing the services with what is currently available. She said they are paying taxes to Kittitas County Hospital District No. 2 and therefore they have an obligation to respond. She did not feel there was an effort by the

Petitioners to involve the entire community, and that the current proposal leaves the citizens without any legal agreement. She indicated the proposal was premature and needed conversations between the Hospital District and citizens. **DAVID BLACK** reaffirmed what Ms. Black said, and felt the proposal was not in the best interest of the citizens in the Snoqualmie Pass area, nor the Hospital District. He noted he was unaware of any arrangements for the replacement of services.

CHAIRMAN BOWEN felt there were some unanswered questions that the County's legal staff may need to look into. **COMMISSIONER HUSTON** explained RCW 57.28.040 states the Petitioners may be required to furnish a bond and pay all costs incurred by the District in connection with the Petition, including the cost of an election. He felt the accumulation of information in the record was not overwhelming to support the request.

RUSS HOBBS explained that due to financial strains, the Petitioners could not afford to continue forward and that's why they decided to take the Petition before the Hospital District Commissioners, to see what they would rule. He said once the Hospital District ruled to deny the request, the Petitioners felt it was the end of the issue.

COMMISSIONER HUSTON said the Hospital District could contract with King County, and established a level of services, if there was interest. **CHAIRMAN BOWEN** explained that according to RCW 57.28.090, if the legislative authority does not have the same as the findings of the District Board Commissioners, the Petition for withdrawal shall be deemed denied, and therefore a special election shall be held not less than 30 days or more than 60 days from the date of the final hearing by the legislative authority.

COMMISSIONER HUSTON moved to direct staff to prepare a Resolution outlining the Board of County Commissioners intent to not act upon the Petition for reasons set forth in RCW 57.28.090. **COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONER HUSTON moved to continue the public hearing to Tuesday July 25, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Upper District Court in Cle Elum. **COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Julie A. Kjorsvik

David B. Bowen, Chairman