



KITTITAS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

STUDY SESSION MINUTES April 23, 2007

THOSE PRESENT: Alan Crankovich, David Bowen, Mark McClain, Jan Ollivier (DPW), Christina Wollman (DPW), Brandon Drexler (DPW), Kelly Carlson (DPW)

GUESTS PRESENT: Catherine Dunn, Janelle Windmore (Forest Service), John Breighthop (sp?), Larry Koscage (sp?), Chad Bala

FOREST SERVICE ROADS/EASEMENTS: Chad Bala stated that the Merrill & Ring purchased property in the Cle elum area. There are three exempt segregations they want to do and two of them have already been approved. The third is held up at the Forest Service. Janelle Windmore (FS) stated that Section 29 is a Forest Service Road and under their regulations and is federal jurisdiction. She stated it is their job to protect the roads to make them safe for the motoring public. She stated that the Forest Service would like to come to an agreement with Merrill and Ring regarding the maintenance of the road to be sure it is safe for the public. Director Drexler stated that there are multiple requirements by Public Works that need to be met prior to approval, but we have been waiting on comments from the Forest Service. Mr. Brighthop stated that the jurisdictional authority is still in question between the Forest Service and Merrill & Ring. Commissioner Bowen stated that he doesn't want the County to hold up the process, but stated that the Forest Service and Merrill & Ring need to sort out the details before the County can grant approval. Janelle Windmore stated that the Forest Service and Merrill & Ring are meeting the end of May to discuss the maintenance agreement and hopefully come to a solution. Director Drexler stated that it is urgent the Forest Service begin submitting comments on any plats that affect their roads. To date the information the County received from the Forest Service is that they are short staffed and do not have time. Commissioner Bowen inquired as to why the Forest Service has not provided the County with their road standards? Janelle Windmore (FS) stated that they do have their own design standards and that they were not aware that Kittitas County would want their standards. Neil Caulkins (PA) stated that he sees this as a scope of easement disagreement, and that if the County moves forward when this exists it would possibly violate the property rights of the Forest Service. He suggests waiting until the Forest Service and Merrill & Ring get everything worked out before the County moves forward.

Darryl Piercy (CDS) stated that this is a two step process in which preliminary approval they must meet road standards and coordination with all entities needs to be completed prior to final approval.

Janelle Windmore (FS) stated that there is still much for the Forest Service and Merrill & Ring to work out as far as jurisdiction and use restrictions. She hopes they will have this resolved within 45 days.

Board Direction: Commissioner Crankovich asked that the Forest Service report back to the BOCC in two weeks for an update on the negotiations with Merrill & Ring.

PERSONNEL CHANGE REQUEST: Director Drexler stated that due to the work load of the Maintenance Manager the need has arisen to add the second of two road foreman's. The requirement demand from the County Road Administration Board has added responsibilities onto the Maint. Mgr.

Board Direction: BOCC approved the added position and directed staff to look at budget impacts and get with HR to move forward to publish.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

BOCC went into executive session at 2:40 to discuss possible litigation. BOCC completed the executive session at 3:10. No decision.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.



Brandon Drexler
Public Works Director