

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL MEETING**

THURSDAY

11:00 A.M.

MARCH 8, 2007

Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich; Vice-Chairman David Bowen and Commissioner Mark McClain.

Others: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Scott Fergeson, Chief of Police Cle Elum & Roslyn; Dale Miller, Chief of Police Ellensburg; Clay Myers, Undersheriff; Mike Johnston, Daily Record; Jim Fossett, Northern Kittitas County Tribune; Charles Glondo, City of Cle Elum Mayor; Scott Sparks, Judge; Thomas Haven, Judge; William Holmes, Director of Probation Services; Joyce Julsrud, Clerk; Gene Dana, Sheriff; Mike Studer, Chief of Police Kittitas; Gary Ristine, Law & Justice Council Representative; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; and four members of the public.

REPORT LAW & JUSTICE COUNCIL PRESENTATION COMMISSIONERS

At approximately 11:00 a.m. **CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** opened a special meeting with representatives of the Kittitas County Law & Justice Council, to receive a presentation from the Law & Justice Council on the needs for a sustainable funding plan for public safety in Kittitas County.

JERRY PETTIT, AUDITOR reviewed a power point presentation and concluded the presentation referring to the Law & Justice Council's recommendation. He indicated that the Council would recommend seeking citizen participation in the formation of a blue ribbon committee (Citizens for a safe Kittitas County) to analyze, evaluate, prioritize, and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on the law and justice needs of today and for the future in Kittitas County. He ended with "let us not wait for a crisis situation". We must think down the road.

DALE MILLER, ELLENSBURG CHIEF OF POLICE spoke in support of forming a committee and explained what they intended on doing over the next year within the Ellensburg Police Department, if the funding was approved and what had been approved by the Ellensburg City Council up to this point.

COMMISSIONER BOWEN, expressed interest in the proposal brought forward by the Law and Justice Council (LAJC), regarding a "Blue Ribbon" Committee being formed. He spoke about the benefit of having the community form a group to let them bring back a proposal to the

Commissioners that they are comfortable with. He explained that this may be the best way to get the voters to approve something when it becomes tied to a tax increase.

DALE MILLER, ELLENSBURG CHIEF OF POLICE indicated that if the group is formed law enforcement would be willing to be present for the meetings but only to answer questions. He explained the importance of truly allowing the committee to do the work and explained why it was important for the committee members to feel in control of this committee. He indicated that law enforcement doesn't intend on being there to intimidate the committee members.

COMMISSIONER McCLAIN questioned whether the committee could be formed, to do the leg work, and have a document ready for the November Ballot. He explained that the document would have to be accepted by the Commissioners and completed by the committee by August, in order to make the November ballot. He felt it would be most beneficial to the committee for local law enforcement to compile a "wish list" so they know what the needs of the agency's are and then when the committee meets they can meet with the agency's and do the research to find out if the requests are needed.

There was discussion on what the committee would be responsible for and who would be responsible for arranging a list of phone numbers, bulletin and press releases indicating a need for members to help form the "Blue Ribbon" committee.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Mandy Robinson

Alan Crankovich, Chairman