

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

THURSDAY

2:00 P.M.

MARCH 6, 2008

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

Others: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Clay Myers, Undersheriff; Bob Gubser, Commander; Gene Dana, Sheriff; Judy Pless, Budget and Finance Manager; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Joyce Julsrud, Clerk; William Holmes, Probation Services Director; Carrie Youngblood; HR Rep; Kirk Eslinger, HR Director, and one member of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING

3/10TH BUDGET DISCUSSION

AUDITOR

At approximately 2:00 p.m. Chairman McClain opened a special meeting to hear from the County Clerk, the Juvenile Dept., Prosecutor and Sheriff relating to the 3/10th of 1% increase in sales tax which had been approved by the citizens of Kittitas County. Judy Pless reviewed the background of the Citizen's Advisory Committee. She stated it was formed in order to examine the funding needs for criminal justice services provided by Kittitas County. Additionally it was the task of the committee to examine and prioritize those needs that would best benefit the overall criminal justice system for Kittitas County. Judy stated that in January the planning committee held a meeting with the departments that would be affected by this tax to plan and budget as well as discuss hiring strategies. Judy stated there was discussion on the projected revenues of the taxes and the expenses associated with these taxes. She stated after a great deal of discussion it was decided that each department would submit their budget information to Judy and she would compile the entire budget together and create "what ifs" for the hiring of the positions. Judy stated the committee agreed on presenting to the Board of County Commissioners what their hiring plan was.

The departments with positions for hire are the County Clerk- hiring of a deputy clerk position, effective July 1, 2008. Juvenile- hiring of a ½ time custody officer effective August 1, 2008. Prosecutor- hiring of 2 deputy prosecutors; one effective July 1, 2008 and one effective August 1, 2008. Sheriff- hiring of 6 line deputies; two in July, two in September and 2 in November; two ½ time security positions effective July 1, 2008 and a clerk effective July 1, 2008. Judy stated if approved then she would create a new fund that would earn interest for this tax,

she also stated she would be looking at setting a reserve aside for all replacement of equipment. If necessary when the sheriff's vehicles come in the County may need to look at borrowing funds from the vehicle replacement fund to assist in the start up costs.

Commissioner Crankovich indicated he had some concerns that this fund may not be as robust as anticipated.

Chairman McClain stated he would like to see the 2004 & 2005 numbers to show the tax money we took in those years.

Clay Myers, Undersheriff stated he had reviewed those numbers for sales tax and felt the Board would be surprised by seeing that it has been fairly consistent.

Chairman McClain stated he needed to know how this would be tracked.

Gene Dana, Sheriff said they will track this by doing reports to show Deputy response time, time for Deputy's to make contact as well as arrests/complaints, cases submitted etc... Gene also indicated he would like to conduct a survey in a year to see if the citizens are happy with what they are seeing or not.

Chairman McClain stated he appreciates those ideas, but doesn't feel that the suggestions given will be enough to get the voters support in another seven years. He stated he felt that the voters wouldn't see a benefit by seeing statistics and they will need visual proof. Chairman McClain felt this was sold to the voters for money to get direct reduction in crime & drugs. Commissioner McClain requested an organizational chart to see the current staffing and asked for clarification on what types of deputy's they would be hiring.

Clay Myers, Undersheriff stated they would like to have 5 new patrol deputy's and 1 civil deputy. He explained the benefit to beefing up both sides of law enforcement.

Gene stated he would like to have flexibility to deal with the priority of where the "boots" are covering the most. He stated this is important because crime popularity changes daily, weekly even monthly. He felt it wouldn't be beneficial to have only certain squads locked down for certain crimes.

Joyce Julsrud, County Clerk stated she has been asking for this position in her office for years, and the citizen committee is the first to listen to her request. She stated they are for the first time getting more money collected currently than they have in years with the assistance of the Prosecutors office.

William Holmes, Probation Services Director offered some insight to his request for a ½ time custody officer. He stated this person would be a new hire. He felt that his current staff didn't have the background or credentials for the position or the skills needed. He stressed the importance of this position stating it would reduce the number of concerns by staff and the public.

Chairman McClain asked where we would house this person and where the holding cell would be, considering the previous request for more space upstairs.

William Holmes, Probation Services Director stated he had a meeting with Tom Swenson, Facilities Maintenance Director for the County. William stated they have come up with an area upstairs that would accommodate a desk and two holding cells, that would be durable and under \$10,000.00.

Commissioner McClain asked Greg Zempel in regards to the positions he has been recommended to receive what he plans to do with them. Commissioner McClain stated at the begging of last year a request was made for two prosecutors and two administrative staff members the Board of County Commissioners granted the request. Commissioner McClain questioned what he would be doing with these two positions. Greg stated they would be project specific prosecutors.

Commissioner McClain asked if there were any other questions and, there being none. The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Mandy Robinson

Mark McClain, Chairman