

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

**THURSDAY**

**10:00 AM**

**NOVEMBER 20, 2008**

Board members present: Chairman Mark McClain; Vice-Chairman Alan Crankovich; Commissioner Linda Huber.

Board of Health Members present: Rich Elliott; Dr. Donald Solberg.

Others present: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Cathy Bambrick, Public Health Administrator; Amber Simon, Public Health Business Manager; Bonnie Corns, Community Health Services Manager; Amy Diaz, Public Information Officer; Robin Read-Ochoa; Mark Larsen, MD, Health Officer, Margaret Condit, Leslie Berry, BOHAC.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**2009 PUBLIC HEALTH FEES**

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

**CHAIRMAN MARK McCLAIN** opened a joint public hearing at 10:05 a.m. between the Kittitas County Board of Commissioners and the Kittitas County Board of Health to consider amending the Kittitas County Public Health Fee Schedule. **CATHY BAMBRICK, PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR** said that Public and Environmental Health had some revisions to make to the Fee Schedule. They would add one fee and remove 6 fees for services no longer offered. The additional fee would be \$50 to review well sites prior to building permits and septic permits. This would provide a coordination that was needed to maintain the setbacks from property lines and between wells and septic systems. She passed on to the Board comments she had received from Jeremy Bach and Steve Belew, well drillers. They felt additional fees were not necessary, that the new review would slow up permitting and that other counties do this review but it is built into other permits.

**CHAIRMAN McCLAIN** asked if a map would be sent in with the intent to drill. **MS. BAMBRICK** said that it would include the setbacks from property lines, house and septic system as well as any surface waters.

**VICE-CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** said that this was a challenge but he hated to add more fees. He asked if a work group with the well

drillers would suffice as it sounded as though they didn't have any input.

**COMMISSIONER HUBER** asked why it couldn't be part of the building permit process. **CATHY BAMBRICK** replied that people aren't comfortable siting wells; they don't want to make the decision for someone else. If the responsibility falls on the well drillers, it will save problems in the future.

**CHAIRMAN McCLAIN** asked what would happen if the well driller doesn't have a sense of where the property lines are. **MS. BAMBRICK** said the property needs to be surveyed before they get the permit. **VICE-CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** said that it's one thing to be a few feet off on your house placement but with wells a few feet can create a great deal of problems. He asked if they could do the On Site Sewage permit after the wells are dug.

**CRAIG WANSLEY, HIDDEN RIVERS WELL DRILLING, 1450 Gibson RD, Selah, WA** asked if they can satisfy the regulation if the well is drilled first and the driller specifies where it should go. **CHAIRMAN McCLAIN** asked how to insure that the setbacks are maintained. **MR. WANSLEY** replied that you meet with the property owner and find out where they want the well, the septic system would be designed from there.

**COMMISSIONER HUBER** said that any time you build outside a city, the property owners drill the well first so they can get a construction loan with the equity.

**DR. SOLBERG** asked how the problems arose. **CATHY BAMBRICK** said they put the septic in first and realize they don't have enough property to get the well 100 feet from the septic system and it is even tighter in the Upper County. **VICE-CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** said that another issue is the division of land.

**BRIAN WOOD, AQUAMAN PUMPS, 11530 Wilson Creek RD, Ellensburg,** said he had been working in this line of business for ten years and one season they did 100 wells. There has been no problems. He said if the Ecology seal (18 feet of bentonite casing) had been done right there was no problem having the septic system near the well. He thought the Department of Ecology and Department of Health should have been working together on this. The prices will rise for the consumer and he wondered why this would fall upon the well driller. He supported the concept but thought there could be a better way. He asked about emergencies when someone's well had run dry.

**CATHY BAMBRICK** said that this discussion was great. She felt it had to be the well drillers to site the well that needs to be drilled before the septic system is put in. The County needs to make the decision to have the well drilled first. She said she had recommended that in the past.

**VICE-CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** said that people place the house first and then think of the other parts. It may take an educational piece for this to be made better and it makes sense to drill the well first. **CHAIRMAN McCLAIN** said that they have had this discussion before, it was a circular argument. **VICE-CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** said that it sounded as though the well drillers haven't been included in the discussions before. **COMMISSIONER HUBER** said they had talked about bringing in the well drillers three months ago.

**DR. SOLBERG** asked what the projected turnaround time of a permit would be since that was a major concern of the well drillers. **MS. BAMBRICK** said it would add a day to the current turnaround time.

**DR. DON SOLBERG** moved to approve Board of Health Resolution 2004-04 to adopt the 2009 public health fee schedule. **VICE-CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** seconded the motion. Motion carried, 3-2. (**VICE-CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** and **COMMISSIONER HUBER** opposed)

**VICE-CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** moved to continue the Board of Commissioners portion of the public hearing to December 2, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. He said that the previous vote was not in opposition but they need input from the well drillers. **COMMISSIONER HUBER** seconded the motion. She echoed **VICE-CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH'S** sentiments and said that the jury was still out on the surveying of property before permits. Motion carried 3-0. The Board directed staff to meet with the well drillers.

**VICE-CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** moved to adjourn the public hearing. **COMMISSIONER HUBER** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The public hearing was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

---

Catherine Dunn

---

Mark McClain, Chairman

