

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL MEETING**

TUESDAY

1:30 P.M.

AUGUST 25, 2009

Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich, Vice-Chairman Paul Jewell and Commissioner Mark McClain.

Others: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Cathy Bambrick, Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committee; Carole Miller Rhodes, John Gaulke and Lyle Ocker, Provident Horizon Group; Geoff Crump, Hopesource; Kathy Matlin and Colleen Griffith, Habitat for Humanity;

SPECIAL MEETING-HOMELESS ASSISTANCE & AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANTS-COMMISSIONERS

At 1:30 p.m. **Chairman Alan Crankovich** opened the special meeting to consider recommendations from the Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee for the disposition of up to \$300,000 in grants. **Cathy Bambrick**, the County representative on the committee explained that there was \$150,000 in Homeless Assistance Grants and \$150,000 in Affordable Housing Grants allowed by the Board. **Commissioner McClain** thanked the Committee for their work in establishing the Application forms and reviewing the Applications and giving their recommendations on the grant applications.

Vice-Chairman Jewell disclosed that he was on the Board of Directors of HopeSource. He said that he was not concerned about making a fair decision on the grants. No objections were noted from the floor.

Application #1- Provident Horizon Group - HEARTH - Help through Employment Access, Resources, Training and Hope

John Gaulke, Provident Horizon Group, explained that Provident Horizon Group was requesting a \$45,212.50 Homeless Assistance grant to provide employment opportunities for those coming out of jail situations. **Carole Miller Rhodes** said they provide a whole family approach to include the jailed family member in the skills that the rest of the family unit is learning.

Vice-Chairman Jewell expressed concern that this program would be included in the Grants criteria.

Cathy Bambrick said when they reviewed the applications, this program would fit under the operating criteria for the grants.

Commissioner McClain also questioned whether the application would fit under the statute. He said that he thought this application would be perfect for the grant if it would apply.

Carole Miller Rhodes explained that other monies would be involved in this program. She said they had access to families out of jail through welfare funds.

Tom Gaulke said that the persons coming out of jail had problems with gaps in work history, background checks and transportation issues. He said they can help with all these when they connect the person with an employer who will work with them.

Vice-Chairman Jewell asked how long the program typically took. **Ms. Rhodes** said there wasn't a typical time. Some folks go through the educational modules more quickly than others.

Vice-Chairman Jewell asked how the individuals were chosen. **Ms. Rhodes** explained that they are referred from DSHS or some other agency and also through court mandated parenting classes.

Chairman Crankovich asked how problems are mitigated. **Ms. Rhodes** said that when there are problems with drugs or alcohol, they use a Certificate of Accomplishment from a treatment program or they are involved with a State Bonding program that bonds the worker.

Chairman Crankovich asked what the percentage of job placement rates were. **Tom Gaulke** said that the rate was 69-70% at the time of placement and 60% after a year.

Vice-Chairman Jewell asked why they should fund this program. **Tom Gaulke** said that if those just out of jail have no programs to assist them, they just cause more problems.

Application #2 - HopeSource Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

Geoff Crump, HopeSource explained that they were requesting \$80,000 Homeless Assistance Grant for Financial Assistance for Short and Medium-term Rental Assistance and Case Management for qualified individuals for up to 6 months. This would allow a crisis family unit to pay their rent and move on to a more stable home rental position.

Vice-Chairman Jewell asked if this population is the same as the emergency rent population. **Geoff Crump** said this was a one-time

assistance to keep families from eviction and the outcome is to make the household more self reliant in the end, with help from case managers. They hoped this program would serve households that are chronically homeless. **Commissioner McClain** asked if this would be spent for rental vouchers or emergency shelters. **Mr. Crump** replied it would be rental vouchers. He said this would be a better return on the investment for the County.

Application #3 and #4 - Habitat for Humanity - House #9 and House #10

Kathy Matlin, Habitat for Humanity Ellensburg President, said Habitat is applying for a \$100,000 Affordable Housing Grant and Habitat is an international Christian Housing ministry, striving to give people home ownership. She said it requires homeowners to contribute sweat equity, take classes on financial management, home ownership and home maintenance. She said the lower price is due to the volunteer hours and the homes are sold on no interest contracts. She explained that Habitat has built 8 homes in Ellensburg.

Chairman Crankovich asked if the home owners can turn the house around and sell it. **Ms. Matlin** replied the homeowners would only receive a small portion of equity per year of ownership when the house is sold. They keep the homeowners involved in the program with invitations to various events. She explained that the amount to build House 9 and 10 increases the amounts of incoming funds that can be used to fund other houses expanding the services to the Upper County. They are establishing a Re-Store to sell donated, recycled building items. This increases the funding for future homes.

Vice-Chairman Jewell asked how Habitat typically gets the monies for houses. **Ms. Matlin** replied they get funds from donors, fundraising projects, bequests and from mortgages from previous houses. **Vice-Chairman Jewell** asked how many houses per year needs to be built to become self-sustaining. **Ms. Matlin** said it would take ten years to get the funds to build one house.

Commissioner McClain asked what \$100,000 grant would pay for. **Ms. Matlin** said the land and improvements to the site would be paid for by the \$100,000 grant. The grant would mean that after this house is finished, Habitat can move directly to a new house site without stopping to raise money after the houses are done. The commitment of the Habitat Board is to try to meet the needs of moderate housing in Kittitas County.

Chairman Crankovich said that the recommendation from the Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee is to fund House #9 this year, but not House #10.

