

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
ELLENSBURG CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
501 NORTH ANDERSON ST
SPECIAL MEETING**

WEDNESDAY

2:00 PM

NOVEMBER 4, 2009

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

Others: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Gene Dana, Sheriff; Clayton Myers, Undersheriff; Paula Hocter, Corrections Commander; Dale Miller, EPD Chief; Gregg Hall, City Administrator, Cle Elum; Nancy Lillquist, Mayor of Ellensburg.

SPECIAL MEETING INCREASED EXPENSES FOR MUNICIPALITIES JAIL

At 2:00 p.m. **Chairman Alan Crankovich** opened a special meeting with representatives of the County municipalities to consider an increase in the expenses for the Corrections facility.

Commissioner McClain said the jail costs had gone up due to the costs of sending inmates out to other jurisdictions. The cost overrun will be close to \$500,000. **Chairman Crankovich** said they were not seeking answers today but wished to let the municipalities know.

Undersheriff Clayton Myers said the projections are based on \$50 per day per inmate. He said the contracts come in with outside jails at \$45 to \$53 per day per inmates and Chelan County is \$73.50 per day per inmate. The Sheriff's Department target is 85 prisoners in the jail per day. There are 15 prisoners in Ferry County at \$45 per day per inmate. He said the cost to send out prisoners in 2008 was \$176,000 and for 2009 it is \$459,000. The current budget is \$55 per day per inmate and a cost increase of 5% is \$58 per day per inmate. He said they are looking at how to address the inmate population. He said that Commander Hocter had successfully negotiated down Chelan County to \$62.50 per day per inmate. The funds for jail costs come from the Sales Tax monies but there is a finite amount in those funds. **Commissioner McClain** agreed saying the costs are eating into the fund balance now.

Undersheriff Myers said this was a global problem. He said they were looking for solutions as the actual cost recovery is \$58 to \$60 per bed per day. He added that 55% of the inmates are from the WA State

Patrol which does not pay proportional costs for their prisoners. **Vice-Chairman Paul Jewell** added that the recovery cost doesn't include the 13% administrative costs such as maintenance costs, Information Services (computers), Accounting, etc.

There was a discussion of Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM) as an alternative to in jail detention, and other alternative sanctions.

Gregg Hall said if the County is looking to revise the contracts to raise the costs of inmate detention, the small cities do not have the money.

Commissioner McClain said that the Board wanted to get the cities involved in the discussion as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Catherine Dunn

Alan Crankovich, Chairman