

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

**WEDNESDAY**

**1:30 PM**

**NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

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

Others: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Judy Pless, Budget and Finance Manager; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Deanna Panattoni, Treasurer; Gene Dana, Sheriff; Joyce Julsrud, Clerk; Marsha Weyand, Assessor; Judge Scott Sparks; Greg Zempel, Prosecutor; Brenda Larsen, Fire Marshal; Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Linda Childs, Upper County District Court Commissioner; Joseph Whalen, Human Resources Director; Todd Davis, Noxious Weed Board Coordinator; Patti Johnson, Solid Waste Director; Cathy Bambrick, Public Health Administrator; Michael Carpenter, Facilities Maintenance Director; Matt Anderson, Fairgrounds Programs Director; Kirk Holmes, Director of Public Works and Interim Director of Community Development Services; Duke Senter, Information Services Director; Judy Young, Treasurer's Office; Dale Larson, WSU Extension; Clay Myers, Undersheriff; Kim Dawson, Administrative Assistant, Bob Gubser, Commander, Steve Panattoni, Patrol Sergeant, Rob Hoctor, Ellis Nale, Sheriff's Office; Ed Buntin, Corrections Corporal, Dave Millet, Corrections; Sara Keith, Clerk's Office; Cindy Adams, Assessor's Office; Sue Higginbotham, Auditor's Office; Christine Luvera, Lower District Court Administrator; Mandy Weed, Community Development Services; Kelly Carlson, Kathy Jurgens, Jim Van de Venter, Chuck Reed, Wes Willette, Department of Public Works; Jim Goeben, Information Services; Robin Raap, Prosecutor's Office; Mike Stafford, Probation Services; Amber Simon, Public Health; Jeanette Williams, Nancy Lillquist, Debbie DeSoer, Regional Library Board; Wayne Johnston, Teamster's Union; Susan Fitterer, Assessor's Office; Paula Hiatt, Lower District Court.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**BUDGET**

**COMMISSIONERS**

At 1:30 p.m. **Chairman Crankovich** opened the special meeting to discuss the Budget with Elected Officials, Department Heads, Supervisors and Union Representatives. **Judy Pless**, Budget and Finance Manager explained that the Board had met with her on November 11, 2009 and the budget was \$2,229,028 out of balance. The Board cut the following items from the proposed budget:

\$60,500	Assessor's office heating and cooling system
\$60,000	Treasurer's office heating and cooling system
\$21,000	Lower District Court door project
\$33,800	Library Advisory Board
<u>\$175,300</u>	

This left the ending expenditures balance of \$24,393,907. The General Fund budget was still out of balance in the amount of \$3,755,814. The Departments cut their budgets and the total cuts were \$678,205 along with increased revenues of \$433,071, leaving the budget out of balance \$2,699,838. Still included in the budget was:

3 additional persons in CDS	\$177,635	
IS Salary increase	34,281	
Treasurer Software	10,000	(reduced from \$25,000)

**Marsha Weyand** suggested a levy shift or banked capacity levy. She explained the County is not taking the 1% available to them. She said a \$1 million shift with all the banked capacity would be \$1.20 per thousand of valuation. **Commissioner McClain** asked what the ramifications would be of taking this amount. **Kirk Holmes** replied there might be audit findings, future fundings from CRAB might be in jeopardy, as well as receiving the fundings late from CRAB.

**Commissioner McClain** asked for recommendations on the levy shift. **Kathy Jurgens, Finance System Manager**, said the more they move out of the Road fund the less Public Works will have for construction funding, matching funds, etc. **Vice-Chairman Jewell** asked what the \$1 million levy shift would mean to the Road Fund. **Kirk Holmes** replied that there would be no chip sealing for a year, and there would be 35 instead of 70 miles of chip seal done, if it were \$500,000.

There was a discussion of the non-departmental budgets. **Jerry Pettit** expressed concern about taking WSAC and WACO dues out of the budget. **Greg Zempel** and **Gene Dana** agreed.

There was a discussion on the revenue including shortfalls in the property tax, investment interest, sales tax and recording fees.

The Board asked for additional amounts to be removed from departmental budgets. The following amounts were offered by the departments:

Fair Hotel/Motel funds	\$100,000
Information Services salaries	34,281
Treasurer Software	10,000
Sheriff Storage Unit	9,000
City of Kittitas Library	2,500

Emergency Services	3,000
Homeland Security EMS	60,000
CDS Contracts	75,000
Public Health	58,438
GF Computer rotation	10,000
Prosecutor Professional	4,400
Juvenile Vehicle Replacement	8,000
Juvenile Other	2,600
Prosecutor Vehicle Replacement	2,500
Commissioners	1,375
BOCC Employee to Historical fund	9,000
Auditor O&M Recording	100,000
Facilities Small Tools	5,000
Facilities Regis/Training	1,500
HR Travel	1,704
HR Advertising	2,000
HR Civil Service	8,000
Fire Marshal	1,000
CDS Professional Service-CAO	75,000
Rainy Day Fund	170,209
Rainy Day Carry Over	250,000
Wage Freeze	<u>323,049</u>
	\$2,327,556

**Judy Pless** said that with those cuts, there was still \$372,282 out of balance.

**Vice-Chairman Jewell** asked whether there was any "fluff" left in the budget. **Judy Pless** replied there was no "fluff" left. **Commissioner McClain** asked if there was any value added services that could be removed from the budget.

**Duke Senter** asked what effect furloughs would have. **Joseph Whalen** said that furloughs would save \$80,000 per day roughly. He asked if there would be a County policy regarding furloughs that would protect benefits, vacation and sick leave banks. He added there would need to be a buy in from the unions, as they have contracts.

**Commissioner McClain** asked about the libraries and WSU Extension. **Nancy Lillquist** speaking for the Regional Library Board said the City of Ellensburg would have to institute a County Library Card fee again and monitor computer and newspaper use. She said they would possibly have to lay people off, as the City cannot afford to absorb the cost. **Debbie DeSoer** said 30% of their users are County citizens, many of them using the computers in the library. Hope Source has said that many people in the Upper County have a large need of the library computers and other services.

**Dale Larsen**, speaking for WSU Extension said they have only two programs left, Rangeland and 4-H, since the Master Gardner program moved to Solid Waste. He said there are 400 4-H volunteers giving 8,000 hours to the program.

**Undersheriff Clay Myers** suggested as a revenue stream to charge for the County Boat Launch at Vantage.

**Matt Anderson** suggested everyone taking a furlough day between now and the end of the year and banking that money for next year.

**Chairman Crankovich** asked if the County can go without road maintenance, in case of levy shift. **Kirk Holmes** replied one year would be without great problems, but that would be all.

**Jerry Pettit** said the Board needs to establish a policy for voluntary furloughs.

**Vice-Chairman Jewell** said the Board would need to ask for volunteers, as well as instituting a wage freeze. **Mike Stafford** said he did not think the County will get where they need to be without cutting staff.

**Chairman Crankovich** said if the County can get to a balanced budget without using all the possibilities, there will still be some room to help for next year.

A discussion followed regarding the increase of property tax amounts. **Jeanette Wilson**, Regional Library Board Chair said that as a taxpayer, she was supportive of an increase in taxes. **Judge Scott Sparks** said there might be a time to consider that, but it is now time to educate the public on the possibility and reasons.

**Joyce Julsrud** said that last spring there was this same discussion and departments cut items from their budgets and committed to other cuts, but not everyone was held to the same standards and were not held to what they committed to.

**Paula Hiatt** thanked the Commissioners for inviting the Union leadership and asked if the wage freeze and furloughs would affect management as well as others. She was told that it would affect all in the County including elected officials.

**Vice-Chairman Jewell** said that Human Resources would develop a draft policy which would allow voluntary furloughs, without touching benefits. He said we were all in this together.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

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Catherine Dunn

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Alan Crankovich, Chairman