

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

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

OCTOBER 14, 2011

Board members present: Commissioner Paul Jewell, Commissioner Alan Crankovich and Commissioner Obie O'Brien.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Lisa Young, Human Resource Director; Sarah Keith, Administrative Assistant; Deanna Panattoni, Treasurer; Gene Dana, Sheriff; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Marsha Weyand, Assessor and Greg Zempel, Prosecutor.

SPECIAL MEETING

ELECTED OFFICIAL WAGES

COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Pettit, Auditor, explained how the elected officials had previously met and were proposing an increase to their salaries, which would bring them up to be equivalent to the Commissioners salaries.

Chairman Jewell said their request actually surprised him and that he would not be in support of their proposal. Commissioner Crankovich asked other than their request being based on historical reasons, what was their justification for the increases? Mr. Pettit said one of the reasons was because they are seeing the non-bargained positions and Union contracts being signed with increases, and their proposal would be fair and equitable to them. Chairman Jewell said non-bargained positions are a 2% increase and it was his intention to not increase Commissioner salaries for 2013 and 2014. He noted they just had their first budget meeting and it looks like they are already looking at being over by approximately 3.4 million dollars, and may be forced to not offer any additional wage increases next year. The comparison study that was conducted by Human Resources show there is only 9 out of 39 counties of which the elected official salaries are equal to those of the County Commissioners. Commissioner Crankovich explained how the Board's responsibilities are larger than the other's and they are ultimately responsible for 9 other departments and hundreds of employees. Mr. Pettit noted how there is no minimum qualifications for the elected positions.

Commissioner O'Brien said as an elected official and needing to face the public, he could not justify an increase when other employees may have to be cut. Mr. Pettit said they understood the Boards concerns and their fall back of a 2% increase would

be acceptable. Chairman Jewell said it was their intention to budget a 2% increase for all non-bargained employees, effective January 1st, but noted were no guarantees of that even happening.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD



Julie Kjorsvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Paul Jewell, Commissioner