

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

MONDAY

11:00 A.M.

FEBRUARY 27, 2012

Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich; Vice-Chairman Obie O'Brien & Commissioner Paul Jewell.

Others: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Sue Higginbotham, Administrative Assistant; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Lisa Young, HR Director.

SPECIAL MEETING

BUDGET/STAFFING DISCUSSION

COMMISSIONERS

At 3:30 p.m. Chairman Crankovich opened a Special Meeting to discuss budget and staffing with the County Auditor's office. He stated that this was a follow up discussion from January 5, 2012 to update the Board on any progress they Auditor's office may have made regarding streamlining in that office.

Jerry Pettit stated that he has been considering different options of how to change things in the Auditor's Office. He explained that they are already down an Accountant in the Auditor's finance division and have reallocated duties throughout the whole department.

Commissioner Jewell stated that he has been watching the budgets closely and nothing that is coming is good. Mr. Pettit indicated that he was very much aware of the status of the budgets and that he has been actively testifying in Olympia on Bills that impact Auditor's offices. Commissioner Jewell indicated that with the current status of the State budgets, these conversations are extremely important. Mr. Pettit expressed his frustrations regarding the Board acting as though the other County budgets are padded. Commissioner Jewell felt strongly that there will be cuts/reductions for 2013. He reviewed the steps the County took to balance the budget for 2012 and stated that they can't continue to do that. He reviewed the current negotiations going on with the Unions. He questioned Mr. Pettit on where he would cut 10% of his budget if he had to do it right away. Commissioner Crankovich explained that they are meeting with multiple departments and asking for contingency plans. Commissioner Jewell stated that the Board needed to know where the reductions would take place at, because the Board needs to take all options into consideration to know the impacts County-wide before anything becomes final. Mr. Pettit stated that at this time he was not willing to discuss where he would cut 10% out of his budget. He stated that it is not a discussion at this time for an open public meeting. He stated that he will do an outline of the

ramifications if his department moved forward with a 10% reduction and present that at a later meeting. He indicated that there is a good chance there will be Union ramifications though. Commissioner Jewell indicated that was why he wanted to know Mr. Pettit's thoughts because they needed time to negotiate if that ended up being a route the Board takes. Mr. Pettit stated that he will meet with the management staff in his department and then present different scenarios.

Staff was directed to schedule a follow up meeting a month out to receive the proposal's Mr. Pettit comes up with.

Commissioner Crankovich stated that the Board may need to consider doing two levels of budget retreats this year and possibly move them up earlier in the year.

Commissioner Jewell reviewed his expectations for the next meeting. He stated he wanted to see more specific proposals and would like a overview of what a cut of 10% and 20% would look like and the ramifications.

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


Mandy Robinson

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Alan Crankovich, Chairman