

**KITTITAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
KITTITAS VALLEY EVENT CENTER
TEANAWAY ROOM**

TUESDAY

6:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 3 , 2013

Board members present: Chairman Obie O'Brien, Vice-Chairman Paul Jewell and Commissioner Gary Berndt.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Brenda Larsen, Fire Marshal; Jeff Watson, Staff Planner and approximately 9 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

WILDLAND INTERFACE CODE

FIRE MARSHAL

At 6:00 p.m. Chairman O'Brien opened a Public Hearing to consider the adoption of the Wildland Urban Interface Code.

JEFF WATSON, STAFF PLANNER and **BRENDA LARSEN, FIRE MARSHAL** reviewed the proposed revisions to Kittitas County Code Title 14. **MS. LARSEN** indicated the Wildland Urban Interface Code is designed to bridge the gap between enforcement, the International Building Code and International Fire Code by mitigating the hazard of wildfires through Model Code regulations which enhance public health and safety. The proposed revisions included the addition of Section 14.04.005 to Title 14 (Building and Construction) of the Kittitas County Code; modifications to Section 16.04.010 of Title 16 (Subdivisions); addition of Title 20 to the County Code and adoption of the Wildland Urban Interface Areas map and associated GIS data set (s) into Title 20 of the Kittitas County Code. Since 2006 the WUI Code has been applied in all areas outside of a fire district for building construction requirements only. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the proposed amendments on August 27, 2013.

COMMISSIONER JEWELL questioned what other mapping had already been done and asked the Fire Marshal for clarification on proposed language and definitions. **CHAIRMAN O'BRIEN** asked questions relating to code enforcement.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: RICH ELLIOT, REPRESENTING HIMSELF spoke of the assessments and viewed them as an investment as long as it's done right. He felt it was the ideal time to assess at the time a building permit is issued and felt the insurance company's should be the ones to identify the risks. He talked about the risks to responders and the development in areas that are more prone to wildfires. **RUSS HOBBS, FIRE DISTRICT #7** said they have inherited areas over the past years which are extremely dangerous and how there is potential areas that would result in loss of life if something is not done. He felt one way to reduce the threat of fire should be at the time of development and urged the Board to adopt the proposed Code. **JOE SEEMILLER, CITY OF ELLENSBURG** indicated the City had adopted the WUI Code a few weeks ago and that the proposed Code addresses the areas that are

APPROVED
12-17-2013

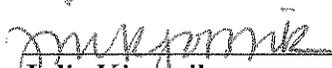
more prone to wildfires. He urged the Board to adopt the WUI Code. **DJ EVANS, DISTRICT #1 FIRE CHIEF** reviewed recent wildfires in the County including one that was 85 square miles which involved State resources. He indicated how there were not enough resources in Kittitas County and that it ends up costing more in the end and that the costs should be up front at the time of development instead. **DAVE WHITWILL, CENTRAL WASHINGTON HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION** said they don't want to get backed up with permits at the County due to having someone go out and look at a building site. He felt the County should instruct the Fire Marshal to cross train other employees to do assessments when they go out to do their other inspections. **THERE BEING NO OTHERS REQUESTING TO TESTIFY THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

COMMISSIONER JEWELL asked what date it would become effective if the Board were to approve the amendments. **MS. LARSEN** said the Ordinance would become effective upon signing. **COMMISSIONER JEWELL** asked if it would be possible to train others and if there was a checklist. **MS. LARSEN** said the building department is currently backed up, but does not see an issue of cross training other employees. She indicated it takes between 45 and 75 minutes to do an assessment onsite however; it depends on the location and if there is any hiking involved, etc. **MS. LARSEN** stated that in accordance with State Statute, the Auditor's office has to have the proposed Ordinance available for public viewing for 10 days.

COMMISSIONER JEWELL moved to continue the Public Hearing to Tuesday December 17, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Auditorium, Room 109, Kittitas County Courthouse 205 West 5th Avenue Ellensburg, WA and noting the written comment period deadline is at 4:00 p.m. on December 16, 2013. **COMMISSIONER BERNDT** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

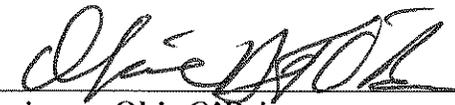
The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD



Julie Kjorsvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Chairman Obie O'Brien