

**KITTITAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSIONERS AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL MEETING**

WEDNESDAY

1:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2014

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

Others: Mandy Buchholz, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Mike Stafford, Assistant JCA Probation Manager; William Holmes, Probation Services Director; Lisa Young, HR Director; Greg Zempel, Prosecutor; Diana MacKenzie, Upper Dist. Court (UDC) Administrator; Judge James Hurson, LDC Judge; Judge Scott Sparks, Superior Court Judge; Judge Darrell Ellis, UDC Judge.

SPECIAL MEETING

LDC-UDC-PROBATION

COMMISSIONERS

At 1:07 p.m. Chairman Jewell opened a Special Meeting to meet with staff from Probation Services, Kittitas County's Upper Dist. Court, Lower Dist. Court and Superior Court Judges regarding the proposed structure change to the County Probation Services Department(s).

Chairman Jewell explained that William Holmes, Probation Services Director had previously scheduled some meetings with the Board to present his proposal for separating Probation Services into two distinct departments under the judicial branch operational authorities effective September 1, 2015. He explained that the meetings didn't allow for enough time for the Board to get familiar with what exactly Probation Services does, and the meetings generated additional questions. He stated that the Board also wanted to speak with the Judges to get their input. He stated that he has reviewed all the materials that have been submitted and reviewed RCW's looking for answers as well. He stated that the Board wanted to know why Probation Services was brought in as a County function to begin with and also why was it combined (Misdemeanant and Juvenile) under one Department Head.

Judges Sparks, Hurson and Ellis explained their roles and the process they take in sentencing. Mr. Holmes explained that Misdemeanant Probation does not use General Fund money and the proposal will reduce Probation Services Fund expenditures. He stated that Juvenile Court Services Department General Fund

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expenditures will be reduced by eliminating one mid-management position (Assistant Juvenile Court Administrator/Probation Manager). He explained that both areas of criminal supervision "probation" have become increasingly specialized & the shared JCA/Probation Director role has been decommissioned / examined and is not accepted throughout the State. He stated that his recommendation for an adult Misdemeanant Department structure should be defined by Resolution and each Dist. Courts local rules to protect liability of the County and define authority based upon (CLJ) presiding Judge(s) administrative authority and Prosecutor advice. He stated that if the proposed changes are adopted he anticipates the budget impact to be near neutral, if not advantageous to both departments' budgets. Mr. Holmes previously provided a complete overview of his proposal and the areas of impact, and reviewed them again briefly with the Board.

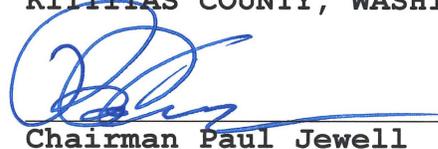
The Board expressed their support for the proposal. Chairman Jewell thanked everyone for attending, noting that he knows how difficult the meeting was to get scheduled. The Board cautioned Mr. Holmes regarding the removal of a position from the Union. They stated that it is extremely difficult to do and questioned how he proposed he would do that. They questioned how the implementation process would go and encouraged Mr. Holmes to have back up plans pending the Union's response.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


Mandy Buchholz

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Chairman Paul Jewell