

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

FRIDAY

4:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 23, 2015

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

Others: Mandy Buchholz, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Darren Higashiyama, Operations Commander; Brett Wachsmith, Treasurer & Jerry Pettit, Auditor.

SPECIAL MEETING

MRAP-ACQUISITION

COMMISSIONERS

At 4:00 p.m. Chairman Berndt opened a Special Meeting to discuss/consider a Law Enforcement Agency Acquisition Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle (MRAP).

Darren Higashiyama, Operations Commander explained that he needed to receive approval from the "civilian governing body" of Kittitas County to obtain a MRAP from the LESO/1033 program through the military. He stated that the KCSO was previously on a list to obtain a MRAP, however on October 1, 2015, President Obama signed Executive Order (EO) 13688 which means certain LESO equipment was labeled as "controlled". The list contained the following equipment: Breaching Apparatus, Riot batons, Riot helmets, Riot shields, Rotary Wing Aircraft, Fixed Wing Aircraft, MRAP/armored personnel carrier, and HMMWV (Humvee). He stated the EO 13688, requires "certify agency has received their civilian governing body's review and approval or concurrence of the Law Enforcement Agency's (LEA) acquisition of the requested controlled equipment". He provided a copy of the justification memorandum that would be submitted in order for the KCSO to remain on the receiving list for a MRAP. He noted that KCSO must advertise to the public by either: e-mail, website, County council meeting or a letter to let them know the County is acquiring the controlled property.

There was discussion on annual cost and training for use of the equipment. Mr. Higashiyama also stressed that the MRAP-Cayman comes with a warranty and that they are not obligated just because the letter is signed. He stated that they can always say they are not interested. He stated that they can use Homeland Security funds towards the purchase. He stated that they have been using equipment from CWU but they no longer make parts for

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it. He reviewed the surrounding jurisdictions that have MRAP's or similar.

The Board asked Mr. Higashiyama for more information regarding the cost involved to replace tires, windows, license plates etc., on this type of equipment from surrounding Counties.

Commissioner Jewell expressed his frustrations with regard to feeling like the County is always being asked to purchase equipment that everyone else benefits from.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


Mandy Buchholz

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Gary Berndt, Chairman