

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

MONDAY

10:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 7, 2015

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Mickey Webb, Event Center Director; Kittitas Valley Bowling Association members Steve Moore, Mitch Buchholz, Jon Erickson, Sr. and 1 member of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING

RODEO BOWL FACILITY

COMMISSIONERS

At 10:00 a.m. Chairman Berndt opened a Special Meeting to discuss future plans of the Ellensburg Rodeo Bowl facility that is owned by the County.

Commissioner Jewell indicated he had previously met with Steve Moore, a member of the Kittitas Valley Bowling Association to discuss the possibility of leasing the Rodeo Bowl facility and reopening it for business. He explained how the property is located within the long-term footprint of the Fairgrounds Master Plan. He said although the County does not have any immediate plans for the facility they are intending to move forward with surplusizing the equipment inside.

Steve Moore, representing the Kittitas Valley Bowling Association, explained how the popularity of bowling throughout the nation has been on the increase. He said by reopening the bowling alley in Ellensburg it would generate employment, bring additional revenue into the City and County from people coming from out of town who stay in hotels, eat in restaurants and shop at local businesses. They intend on holding league tournaments and hoped to host national tournaments as well. Jon Erickson, Sr. said the bowling alley would be a great place not only for local leagues and community members, but a place to meet for businesses, hold fundraisers, tournaments, school districts, etc. He indicated he has a business partner who would be bringing in the money to update the facility if they were able to obtain a lease agreement with the County.

APPROVED

Commissioner Jewell explained how running a business such as a bowling alley is not a function of County government and they are not interested in competing with local businesses.

Chairman Berndt said an inspection has already been done on the roof and it was determined a new one is needed which will cost approximately \$50,000.00. Mr. Erickson said they would like to have other inspections done such as electrical, etc. to make sure it's safe prior to entering into a lease agreement.

Chairman Berndt expressed concerns of what would happen if the County were to lease the building and the business were to fail.

The Board said they would allow the group 6 weeks to do an evaluation and come back with a proposal by January 30th. The proposal should include how their plan would assist in meeting the goals of the County. It was noted that the County would have no responsibility with running the business and if they were to need the facility back sooner than the end of the lease, they could do so with proper notice, etc. Another condition the Board would like to see included is having control over the parking around the building during the annual Labor Day weekend Fair/Rodeo events. The Board agreed to not get rid of the equipment inside the building until they meet with the representatives sometime before the end of January.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD



Julie Kjonsvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Gary Berndt, Chairman