

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL MEETING**

MONDAY

2:00 P.M.

APRIL 17, 2017

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Neil Caulkins, Deputy Prosecutor; Jill Scheffer, Event Center Director; and approximately 10 members of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING

MEL'S BOWL

COMMISSIONERS

Due to the amount of people attending the meeting it was moved from the Commissioners Conference Room to the Commissioners Auditorium.

At 2:00 p.m. Chairman Jewell opened a Special Meeting to discuss the proposed Mel's Bowl Fun Center which would be located in the old Bowling Alley that's owned by the County.

Mike Burtness reviewed the history and proposal of Mel's Bowl Family Fun Center. He said it was their desire to have 6 bowling alleys located within the building. They have reached out to the person who originally installed the lanes and he felt he could put them back together to have them up and running again. He indicated there were people interested in opening the restaurant portion, as well as having a 9-hole putt-putt golf area. The center would be a creative and educational place along with various types of activities for families to do. They plan on having artists involved from the university as well as the community; a stage and area to show movies and other types of entertainment. He said there may be interest to get the bar up and running as well, but they would not be interested in serving hard alcohol. The group believes they can make the payments as outlined in their business plan which was previously submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration. There was discussion on how the roof needs to be replaced. He asked what the BOCC needs or what they need addressed.

Some of the comments made by the audience included: A strong need for a family fun center in the community and where would the money come from to pay for the equipment.

Jennifer Hoyt said they would set up some type of fundraisers for businesses to sponsor a hole for putt-putt golf or a bowling lane.

Commissioner O'Brien said he didn't want to undercut other businesses or private entities.

Chairman Jewell explained how the County was not in the business of renting office space and how it takes away from private businesses. He said the roof and HVAC is an issue and needs to be replaced in addition to fixing the potholes around the area which could result in being up to \$100,000.00. He expressed concerns of economics and where the group would be in 10 years. He said several people have approached the County to rent the building for a variety of different projects. Although the County is open to ideas, it is not necessarily a function of County government to operate a facility like that.

Mr. Burtness said they have volunteers who have expressed their willingness to take care of the HVAC, plumbing, etc. as it would be a large benefit to the community. Chairman Jewell said that would be great however, they would need to get the plans approved for those projects. He said if they intend on bringing some assets to the table it would help provide real value to the County.

Commissioner Osiadacz said at the end of the day the County Commissioners need to be able to make sure they are using the tax payer's money to its best use. She also expressed concerns of possible cost overruns on the project.

The Board indicated they would put together a response which would include some financial information along with what the group would be required to do for renovation and the approximate costs.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD



Julie Kjosrvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Paul Jewell, Chairman