

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

MONDAY

3:30 P.M.

NOVEMBER 6, 2017

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

Others: Mandy Buchholz Deputy Clerk of the Board II; Jill Scheffer, Event Center Director and members of the Ellensburg Rodeo Board: Jeff Faltus, Jerry Jensen; Jerry Doolin, Mike Hajny; Rick Cole and Bob Crowe.

SPECIAL MEETING

ELLENSBURG RODEO BOARD LETTER

COMMISSIONERS

At 3:30 p.m. Chairman Jewell opened a Special Meeting to discuss a letter the County received on 10/10/2017 from the Ellensburg Rodeo Board (ERB).

Jeff Faltus, ERB President indicated that the grounds for the 2017 Ellensburg Rodeo were in the poorest condition that they have ever seen. He stated there was an unprecedented amount of man hours, work and money put into this year's event in order to bring it up to at least the minimum condition that is expected for one of the top ten rodeos in the world. He stated that the County received notice of short payment of the ERB and Kittitas County Lease Agreement until the concerns outlined in the letter can be addressed and solutions put forward that are mutually agreed upon. He stated his letter also outlined expenses they were deducting from the rent totaling \$6,928.82. He stated that they had multiple pieces of equipment break down while performing work around the grounds that the ERB feels should be being done by the KVEC.

ERB Directors Hajny, Cole, Doolin, and Cole all expressed their frustrations and concerns for the grounds relating to how the dirt gets worked (not often enough), cleanliness, electrical issues and weeds (nothing they had burned up two weed eaters). Jeff Faltus indicated that the Ellensburg Rodeo can actually be shut down if the facility is not up to par. He stated that there are judges that walk the grounds and can pull the plug on the event if certain expectations/requirements are not met.

Chairman Jewell indicated that a few years ago the County contracted with a company to come and do an energy efficiency study and then complete the work to bring the County facilities into a more energy efficient status. He stated that the Event Center was reviewed at that time and recommendations were made, however and the Board was told that the ERB was not interested in having changes made to their

equipment located down at the Event Center. Rick Cole stated that is not a decision that should have ever been made without going before the whole ERB, as the Board itself would have been all for that.

It was determined/agreed to that the ERB and the KVEC would arrange for ERB Director Carl Jensvold to show Event Center Staff how to work the arena on off days while it's not being prepared for a specific event; a rotation schedule would be created for treatment of weeds on and around the KVEC; the County would work on seeking and energy conservation grant to address lighting and electrical concerns. There was discussion on the pre and post walkthrough process that's been implemented at the KVEC and how it's been working.

Additional concerns about events coming in after the Ellensburg Rodeo and benefiting from the work that the ERB put into the facility were expressed as well as the facility being double booked during the ERB rental period.

Chairman Jewell stated that in the future "threating" letters are not necessary. They will happily meet at any time and would actually like to have pre and post meetings with the ERB. He stated that the only times the two Boards have met was to renegotiate their contract and then this meeting. He stated there are better ways to get the BoCC's attention and withholding payment isn't the best way. He stated that the County is very hopeful that the concerns discussed today and outlined in the letter will not be an issue in the future and certainly not to the extent that they were this year and that the County would like to continue to improve the communication and relationship with the ERB.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


Mandy Buchholz

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Paul Jewell, Chairman