

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

**MONDAY**

**9:00 A.M.**

**NOVEMBER 25, 2024**

Board members present: Chairman Brett Wachsmith; Vice-Chair Laura Osiadacz; Commissioner Cory Wright.

Others: Mandy Buchholz, Office Administrator; Shelise Smithgall, Administrative Assistant; Bryan Elliott, Auditor; Chris Horner, Civil Deputy III; Andrew Yoder, Finance Manager and two members of the public.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**OFFICE STAFF MEETING**

**COMMISSIONERS**

At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Wachsmith opened the Office Administration meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pat Kelleher stated that there is still no record for the Public Hearing on 12/2/2024 for the County Budget Adoption. He stated that he emailed the Chair regarding access to Kiwanis Fishing Pond and has still not received anything back. He stated it's strange that he has asked for public access policy for a long time, and one didn't exist. Now that we have land with the Springwood purchase we have a policy.

**CALENDAR**

**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of County Commissioners reviewed their weekly calendar.

**PAF/VOUCHERS**

**REVIEW OF PAF'S & VOUCHERS**

**COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of County Commissioners approved and signed County Employee Personnel Action forms and vouchers.

**CORRESPONDENCE LOG**

**REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE LOG**

**COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of County Commissioners reviewed the weekly Correspondence Log, a listing of all incoming mail and correspondence for the week ending November 22, 2024.

**DISCUSSION**

**2025 EXEMPT SALARY**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Bryan Elliott, Auditor, reviewed employees impacted by the 2025 L&I Threshold for Exempt status. He requested direction from the Board. The Board stated that any employee meeting the 2025 L&I Exempt

Threshold would remain exempt regardless of position. Auditor Elliott followed up on last week's conversation with the Board about PTO impacts on those employees impacted by the L&I Threshold. The Board discussed options and gave direction for the Auditor's Office to set up a separate account for a lump sum payout to the Employees impacted by the L&I Threshold for Exempt Staff.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**COMMISSIONERS**

At 9:16 a.m. Chairman Wachsmith announced the Board would recess into a Collective Bargaining - Closed Session with the Board & Bryan Elliott, Auditor; Chris Horner, Civil Deputy III; Andrew Yoder, Finance Manager - Pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b), the OPMA does not apply to that portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress.

At 9:21 a.m. the Board reconvened out of a Closed Bargaining Session. No Action taken.

At 9:21 a.m. the Board announced they would recess back into an Executive Session for 10 minutes under RCW 42.30.110 (g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to RCW 42.30.140(4), discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public with the Board and Chris Horner, Civil Deputy III. Action anticipated.

At 9:31 a.m. the Board reconvened out of Executive Session. Direction to formalize the Coroners Investigation Report, noting the Board would draft a letter for legal to review.

**DISCUSSION**

**COUNTY FACEBOOK**

**COMMISSIONERS**

The Board determined that for the week of November 25, 2024, they would post the following on their Facebook page: Wishing Kittitas County residents a Happy Thanksgiving.

**UPDATE**

**BOCC/ DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Each Commissioner was assigned three different Department Heads to meet with on a weekly basis for the year. The assignments for 2024

were determined at the Board of County Commissioners Office Admin meeting earlier on and they will continue to provide updates at future meetings.

Each Commissioner reviewed discussions held with their respective departments and exchanged details of those meetings.

**OTHER BUSINESS/GENERAL UPDATES**

There were general updates on meetings & conversations that the Board participated in, individually over the past week.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**COMMISSIONERS**

At 9:49 a.m. the Board announced they would recess back into an Executive Session for 5 minutes under RCW 42.30.110 (g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to RCW 42.30.140(4), discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public with the Board and Chris Horner, Civil Deputy III. Action anticipated.

At 9:54 a.m. the Board reconvened out of Executive Session. No action taken.

Meeting concluded at 9:54 a.m.

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**

  
Mandy Buchholz

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
Brett Wachsmith, Chairman