

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

TUESDAY

10:30 A.M.

AUGUST 29, 2017

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Representative Matt Manweller, Val Barschaw, Clerk; Gene Dana, Sheriff; Lisa Young, Human Resource Director; Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Neil Caulkins, Deputy Prosecutor; and approximately 12 members of the public.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**FREEDOM FOUNDATION**

**COMMISSIONERS**

At 10:30 a.m. Chairman Jewell opened a Special Meeting to consider adopting a Policy and/or Resolution that all Collective Bargaining Meetings will be Open to the Public.

Representative Matt Manweller, provided information from the State's prospective and the process they go through during negotiations and the issues relating to transparency & propriety.

Lisa Young, Human Resource Director, provided a history of the request previously received from the Freedom Foundation.

Mathew Hayward, Freedom Foundation representative, spoke about transparency with local government and how he hoped the County would open their negotiations to the public. He said it would have no impact to Executive Sessions where strategies could still be discussed. He felt tax payers want to know they are being negotiated for and there would be less conflict if done in open meetings. He said it's not a new idea as its being done all over the Country in different areas.

Stephanie Olsen, Litigation Council for Freedom Foundation, provided information on Lincoln County's Resolution.

Rob Coffman, Lincoln County Commissioner, provided information on their experience since adopting a Resolution for having negotiations open to the public. He noted the public was not allowed to participate in the meetings, but it's an opportunity for them to observe the process.

Tom Cash, Representative from AFSCME, opposed the proposal and addressed statements made by the Freedom Foundation. He reviewed the process that they've experienced in the past and how it's been very transparent for as long as he's been involved. He felt open

negotiations may prohibit frank and fair discussions; hinder free flow of discussions; and risk the possibility of having the media misconstrue information.

Paul Parmley, Teamsters representative, provided some history of the Freedom Foundation's strategy and said it's never been constituent driven but a mission to defund organized labor. He questioned who was providing their funding and said the Board should not compare it with the State's negotiation process.

Brad Sweet, Teamsters in Lincoln County, said he has been a Union representative for 7 years and he felt they've always had a good working relationship with their Board of County Commissioners however, from his prospective the Board considered the proposal without receiving input from them prior to adopting the Resolution. He indicated they have a great flow of information with their membership, and as far as he knows there's no one in favor of what was done.

Sheriff Gene Dana said he could see the financial aspects being an educational piece for the public, but the internal operational parts of their office is different.

Auditor Jerry Pettit said he believes in transparency and commented on how there may be different structures between Counties.


Chairman Jewell thanked everyone for attending and said he anticipated the Board scheduling another meeting in the near future.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

  
Julie Kjørsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Paul Jewell, Chairman