

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONER'S AUDITORIUM
EMERGENCY SPECIAL MEETING**

THURSDAY

4:00 P.M

AUGUST 23, 2018

Board members present: Laura Osiadacz, Chairman; Vice-Chairman, Obie O'Brien; Commissioner Cory Wright.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Darren Higashiyama, Operations Commander; Clay Myers, Undersheriff/Fair Board Member; Heather Harrell, Fair Board Member; Stephanie Hartung, Deputy Prosecutor; Lisa Young, Human Resource Director/Interim Event Center Director; Jerry Lael, Fair Board Member; Tristen Lamb, Environmental Health Supervisor/Interim Public Health Administrator; Mark Larson, Public Health Official.

SPECIAL MEETING

EMERGENCY MEETING

SHERIFF

At 4:00 p.m. Chairman Osiadacz opened an Emergency Meeting at the request of the Kittitas County Sheriff's Department.

Clay Myers, Undersheriff representing Emergency Management informed the Board of County Commissioners that they are beginning to work on a plan in case of poor air quality next week during the Fair & Rodeo and if the Public Health Officer determines it necessary to close any portion of the event. He said Dr. Larson has the authority to close it if the air quality reaches a point in which it affects the public's health and safety. He said they are working with everyone to identify potential issues and to create an overall plan including establishing trigger points; having daily meetings to make any determinations and how to notify the public; how to implement the closures; identify ways of clearing the grounds; and how to rotate people through to ensure the livestock on the Fairgrounds are being taken care. He said if they were to close and the air quality dropped back down, they would also need to plan on how to re-open the doors to the public and get proper notification out to everyone. If the criteria were met and the Public Health Official determines it necessary to close the Fair & Rodeo it would allow for a Declaration of Emergency to be issued for the utilization of resources.

Discussions were held on possibly having masks available for the public and use it as an opportunity to educate the public. Stephanie Hartung, Deputy Prosecutor suggested having people sign a waiver if they issued masks, noting there would be no guarantee of their safety.

APPROVED
9/4/18

Dr. Larson reviewed the State requirements relating to air quality levels and how there are ways to mitigate some things, but once the levels reach "hazardous" there is no mitigation strategies. Information was provided by Dr. Larson and he said nothing relating to the issue is being taken lightly and everyone is hoping for no issues relating to poor air quality next week. There were also concerns expressed relating to logistics and the financial loss if the event were to be closed down. Undersheriff Myers said they hoped to have more information at the beginning of next week after speaking with other key groups.

The Board directed Staff to continue working on preparing a plan along with assistance from the Prosecutors office, Auditor, Human Resources/Risk Management, and Public Health.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD



Julie Kjorsvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Laura Osiadacz, Chairman