

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

THURSDAY

10:00 A.M.

JANUARY 24, 2019

Board members present: Chairman Cory Wright & Commissioner Laura Osiadacz. Excused: Vice-Chairman Brett Wachsmith.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Greg Zempel, Prosecutor; Neil Caulkins, Deputy Prosecutor and 2 members of the public.

DISCUSSION

PROSECUTOR PROCESS

COMMISSIONERS

At 10:00 a.m. Chairman Wright opened a Special Meeting to review the process and best way to interact and communicate effectively between the Board of Commissioners and the Prosecutors office.

Commissioner Wright said he would like to minimize any potential exposure for the County before making decisions. He indicated that he'd like to make sure he has all of the information beforehand including any potential holes. There was discussion on the representation that Prosecutors office provides for the Community Development Services Department and Public Works Department versus the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Caulkins said that should be better now that the Board adopted the recent changes with the Hearing Examiner and their role.

Mr. Zempel reviewed the Department's assigned counsel and said it was based upon historical work and the person's expertise. He explained that if there's an emergency that needs to be addressed and their assigned counsel is not available, the Department could contact him and he would see what he could do to assist. He also provided an update on the process and the work that's done between the Departments and the Prosecutors office before it comes before the Board. He shared that their office does not have any agendas and there have been instances in the past that the Board of County Commissioners have made decisions different than what the Prosecutors office has advised them to do, and that's the way it goes. Mr. Zempel said if there were any issues or if Departments were feeling frustrated he encouraged them to contact their office to have a conversation instead of letting things get worse.

Commissioner Osiadacz suggested the Prosecutors office look into the the Departments who are their own enterprise funds possibly fund a position

in the Prosecutors office to help elevate some of the heavy workloads and Staffing. Mr. Zempel recommended that the Auditor's office be included in any future conversations.

DEED

503 NORTH NANEUM STREET

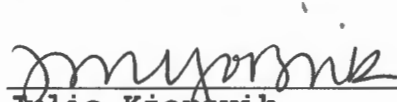
COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Commissioners received a letter from Attorney Paul McBride who is representing Merit Resource Services, formerly ADDS who is a non-profit corporation that provides drug and alcohol abuse counseling and recovery services. In 2009 the Board sold a lot at 503 N. Nanum Street to ADDS for \$55,000.00. The property was never developed as envisioned and the property is no longer of use to Merit and they wish to sell it. There is language in the Deed restricting the use of property to a non-profit and they are requesting to have it removed so they can sell it.

Chairman Wright and Commissioner Osiadacz agreed they would rather not have the property back, but believed by allowing Merit to sell the property for profit, it would be considered gifting of public funds. They both were in favor of not removing the language in the Deed. Commissioner Osiadacz said she'd like to see if the property could be put to better use to benefit the public by allowing an agency to create more affordable housing. Mr. Zempel said it was up to the Board of Commissioners on which direction they'd like to go. Staff was directed to forward the documentation to the Prosecutors office and between Mr. Caulkins and Ms. Hartung they could provide options and documentation for the Boards consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD


Julie Kjosvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Cory Wright, Chairman