

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

WEDNESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 20, 2020

Board members present: Chairman Brett Wachsmith, Vice-Chairman Laura Osiadacz (via WebEx), and Commissioner Cory Wright (via WebEx).

Others: Taylor Crouch, Deputy Clerk of the Board I; Mandy Buchholz, Deputy Clerk of the Board (via WebEx); Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board (via WebEx); and 1 member of the public (via WebEx).

SPECIAL MEETING PLANNING UPDATE/COVID-19 COMMISSIONERS

At 10:00 a.m. Chairman Wachsmith opened a Special Meeting for the Board to provide planning updates relating to COVID-19.

LETTER VARIENCE OP ED COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Wright updated the Board on the edit he had made to the latter. Commissioner Wachsmith also reviewed edits. It is suggested this publication be between 700-800 words and currently the letter sat above 800 words. Commissioner Osiadacz asked if the Board could work with the newspaper to publish the whole story instead of cutting sections out. Commissioner Wachsmith moved to approve the Variance Op-Ed and for Commissioner Wright to work with the newspaper on the finalization of the letter to get it to form. Commissioner Osiadacz seconded. During discussion Commissioner Osiadacz thanked the Board for the work done on this important piece of communication. Commissioner Wright stated his frustrations with the current scenario and that letter writing is the most useful tool at their disposal right now, he asks to keep working with the Prosecutor's Office to find new tools. Motion carried 3-0.

SPECIAL MEETING PLANNING UPDATE/COVID-19 COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Osiadacz updated the Board on a letter from Anytime Fitness to the State of Washington. She asked the Board to support this letter. Commissioner Wachsmith agreed. Commissioner Osiadacz will work with Anytime Fitness and will draft a letter for Board consideration on another meeting agenda.

Commissioner Wright updated the Board on Forest Services opening in Upper County. Commissioner Osiadacz asked to set up a meeting with the Board and the Incident Management Team (IMT) to discuss the potential overall effects of opening Forest Services for camping purposes, not just day use. Commissioner Osiadacz will also be reaching out to businesses in the Upper County that could be

affected by the re-open. Commissioner Wright states that the local businesses in the County are the focus in this stage. All three Commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Wright asks that Commissioners as well as DH/EO's to use their camera functions for online meetings moving forward. Larger meetings will be experimental as camera use slows down the bandwidth for meetings with a large group of participants. Commissioner Wachsmith agreed.

Commissioner Wachsmith updated the Board on the Economic Recovery Committee and the social support systems in place in the Community. Comprehensive Mental Health is in a hiring freeze, they were already short on Mental Health providers for the County. The Ellensburg Public School District has delivered 50,000 meals since the schools have closed. A CWU collaboration has raised \$1,500 through gofundme.com to purchase gift cards from local businesses, and then they distribute those gift cards back to members in the Community through the Distribution Committee. Commissioner Osiadacz stated the Distribution Committee has also raised \$2,000 to this cause. On the Tuesday Business call yesterday, Representative Alex Ybarra gave an update that by the first part of June, there will be a total statewide shortfall figure resulting from COVID-19. There may be a Special Session depending on the severity of the shortfall. Commissioner Wachsmith updated the Board that the Economic Recovery Committee is still providing technical assistance to businesses to prepare for re-opening. The Committee along with the Chamber of Commerce will have a booth at the Farmer's Market for people to ask questions and get information.

Commissioner Wright updated the Board that the grant application for the CARES funding came.

Other Business:

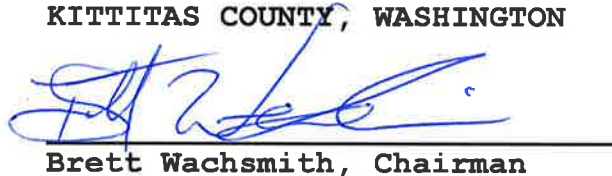
Commissioner Wachsmith stated the Prosecutor's Civil team is discussing the Mental Health Tax Public Hearing this morning, there will be an update coming soon.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD I


Taylor Crouch

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Brett Wachsmith, Chairman