

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

MONDAY

2:00 P.M.

NOVEMBER 30, 2020

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Mandy Buchholz, Deputy Clerk of the Board II; Taylor Crouch, Deputy Clerk of the Board I; Judy Pless, Budget & Finance Manager; Arden Thomas, WRP Manager; Liz Remeto, Finance Manager; Joshua Frederickson, Engineer; Mike Hougardy, Assessor; Amy Cziske, Treasurer; Chris Horner, Deputy Prosecutor; and Candie Leader, Administrative Supervisor.

This meeting was provided to the public via WebEx and they were previously notified on the Agenda as to where they could access and provide public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING

TAX LEVY RATES

AUDITOR

At 2:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** opened a Public Hearing continued from October 5, 2020 to consider possible tax increases for the tax levy rates and amount for the taxes levied in 2020 to be collected in 2021 for the General Fund, County Road and the Flood Control District. He noted the record was open.

JUDY PLESS, BUDGET & FINANCE MANAGER provided various information including property tax rates, levies and collections for the last ten fiscal years; Principal Taxpayers; 2021 Preliminary County Budget - Property Taxes by Fund; 2021 Preliminary County Budget - General Tax Levy; 2021 Preliminary County Budget - General Fund 2021 Proposed Revenues; 2021 Preliminary County Budget - General Fund Taxes; 2021 Preliminary County Budget - County Road Revenues; 2021 Preliminary County Budget - County Road Taxes; 2021 Preliminary County Budget - Flood Control Revenues; 2021 Preliminary County Budget - Flood Control Taxes; and the Assessor's Certification of Assessed Values to the Taxing Districts. **JOSHUA FREDRICKSON, ENGINEER** answered questions relating to the banked capacity over multiple years, which has resulted in a backlog of County Road projects. **MS. PLESS** noted the General Fund has done a Levy Shift over the last several years as well. **MIKE HOUGARDY, ASSESSOR** addressed questions from the Board and indicated the median value of homes in Kittitas County is approximately \$325,000.00.

THERE BEING NO ONE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-196, for Levying Taxes for the General Tax Levy for Municipal Purposes of Kittitas County, Washington for the Year 2021 According to the Assessed Valuation as Determined in the Year 2020. **CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** seconded.

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT said while he understands it's a difficult year economically for people, there is still a cost for services including statutory requirements, as well as expectations from the citizens. He reviewed various reasons why he would be supporting the 1% levy increase. **VICE-CHAIRMAN OSIADACZ** explained why she would not be supporting the motion in favor of increasing the taxes. She felt it was not the County's money and she believed the public would not want to increase the levy either, especially in the middle of the current pandemic. **CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** reviewed reasons why he would be supporting the increase and noted he did not take the decision lightly. He said with the help of key partnerships in the community, they've done an outstanding job utilizing the CARES funding with businesses. Motion carried 2-1. **VICE-CHAIRMAN OSIADACZ** opposed the motion.

RESOLUTION 2020-197

LEVYING TAXES - COUNTY ROAD

AUDITOR

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-197, for Levying Taxes for the County Road for Municipal Purposes of Kittitas County, Washington for the Year 2021 According to the Assessed Valuation as Determined in the Year 2020. **CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** seconded. Motion carried 2-1. **VICE-CHAIRMAN OSIADACZ** opposed the motion.

RESOLUTION 2020-198

FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT

AUDITOR

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT moved to approve Resolution No. 2020,198, for Levying Taxes for the County Flood Control Zone District for Municipal Purposes of Kittitas County, Washington for the Year 2021 According to the Assessed Valuation as Determined in the Year 2020. **CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** seconded. Motion carried 2-1. **VICE-CHAIRMAN OSIADACZ** opposed the motion.

RESOLUTION 2020-199

SUBSTANTIAL NEED - GENERAL FUND

AUDITOR

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-199, Declaring Substantial Need for the County General Fund for Municipal Purposes of Kittitas County, Washington for the Year 2021 According to the Assessed Valuation as Determined in the Year 2020. **CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** seconded. Motion carried 2-1. **VICE-CHAIRMAN OSIADACZ** opposed the motion.

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-200, Declaring Substantial Need for the County Road for Municipal Purposes of Kittitas County, Washington for the Year 2021 According to the Assessed Valuation as Determined in the Year 2020. CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH seconded. Motion carried 2-1. VICE-CHAIRMAN OSIADACZ opposed the motion.

RESOLUTION 2020-201 SUBSTANTIAL NEED - FLOOD CONTROL ZONE AUDITOR


COMMISSIONER WRIGHT moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-201, Declaring Substantial Need for the County Flood Control Zone District for Municipal Purposes of Kittitas County, Washington for the Year 2021 According to the Assessed Valuation as Determined in the Year 2020. CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH seconded. Motion carried 2-1. VICE-CHAIRMAN OSIADACZ opposed the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD


Julie Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Brett Wachsmith, Chairman