

**KITTITAS COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS STUDY SESSION MINUTES
In-Person and Webex
Regular Meeting**

MONDAY

1:30 PM

August 9, 2021

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

Others In-Person: Mark Cook, Rebecca Cruse, Arden Thomas, Public Works; Dan Carlson, Mike Flory, Toni Berkshire, Community Development Services; Scott Nicolai, Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee Member

Others Virtual: Jessica Miller, Community Development Services; Neil Caulkins, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; (3) Members of the Public.

At 1:30 pm Chairman Brett Wachsmith opened the Public Works Study Session.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SPARKS ROAD AGREEMENT

Mark Cook updated the Board of County Commissioners on the status of the I-90 expansion project. Mark Cook stated that Public Works needs to make a few revisions on the Quit Claim Deed that was drafted previously by staff. Mark Cook added that the revised deed will be presented at the next agenda session for BOCC consideration.

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS POTENTIAL LAND SWAP WITH KITTITAS COUNTY

Mark Cook stated that Event Center Director Kady Porterfield has interest in a parcel that is continuous with the Event Center Master Plan, and currently owned by Washington State Parks. Mark Cook commented that staff is asking for BOCC direction on moving forward with Washington State Parks on a Land Swap for the work performed by Public Works on the Ginkgo State Park parking area improvements. Discussion was held. Staff was directed to prepare a list of qualifications for a Professional Appraiser establishing the property value followed by negotiation.

ROAD MAINTENANCE MECHANIC

Mark Cook stated that Public Works is requesting the addition of a Maintenance Mechanic Position for the Upper County Shop in the 2022 Budget. Mark Cook added that Public Works anticipates staffing the Upper County Shop and utilizing the facilities, including a conference room and the relocation of the Public Works Finance Manager. Staff was directed to include the Mechanic Position in the 2022 budget.

APPROVED
9/7/21

PUBLIC WORKS WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM TECHNICIAN 1 POSITION

Mark Cook presented on the value of the Water Resource Program, and increased staffing needs at this time. Mark Cook stated that Water Resource Program Manager, Arden Thomas, requires the support of a Water Resource Technician and is requesting the BOCC to consider the position for 2022 Budget. Commissioner Laura Osiadacz asked how this position would be funded. Mark Cook explained that the position would be fully funded by the Flood Control Zone District, and projections show the budget can support this. The Board concurs that the position will support rate payers in the county and directed staff include the addition in 2022 budget.

FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED 2022 BUDGET

Mark Cook gave background on communications with current landowners adjacent to the Lick Creek Culvert Replacement Project. Mark Cook stated that landowners in the area had expressed interest in improving or replacing private bridges and culverts along the creek. Mark Cook continued explaining that the Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee doesn't agree that these projects are beneficial to rate payers in the district. Mark Cook added that he is looking for alternative funding sources for these projects, with the Road Fund being a possibility. Mark Cook stated that without the Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committees current support staff is looking for direction in facilitating this project. Discussion was held. Staff was directed to proceed with provided legal advice.

Scott Nicolai, a member of the Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee presented his career background, and he acknowledges the FCZD advisory boards disagreement. Scott Nicolai requested the Board of County Commissioners for prompt communication on issues in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS- 2021 MOTOR VEHICLE TAX

Mark Cook informed the Board that Washington State Motor Vehicle Tax has declined in the past year and the revenue loss has resulted in only 84% of the budgeted funds collected. Mark Cook added that this decline is anticipated to affect the Kittitas County Road Fund in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rebecca Cruse, Administrative
Assistant



Brett Wachsmith, Chairman