

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
CONFERENCE ROOM/WEBEX  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**TUESDAY**

**9:00 A.M**

**NOVEMBER 30, 2021**

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Sarah Keith, Superior Court Administrator; Barb Demory, Lower District Court Administrator; Diana MacKenzie, Upper District Court Administrator; and Doug Mitchell, Deputy Prosecutor.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**PUBLIC DEFENSE**

**COURTS**

At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Wachsmith opened a Special Meeting to discuss how to move forward with Court appointed Attorney contracts.

Sarah Keith, Superior Court Administrator, provided an update on some recent changes from the Office of Public Defense and the Courts current caseloads. She said the Courts were beginning to run out of attorneys who are interested in contracting for services. She described one of the benefits of having a Public Defenders office is that the attorneys would be employed by the County including benefits. There are a few other counties who have a Public Defense Office and reviewed their structure. Budget impacts would include hiring approximately 4 attorneys and a couple of staff members. A location for the office needs to be identified. She said they will continue to receive funding as long as they are working on a plan and noted they have a target date of 2024.

The Courts will begin working together on the next step of creating a roster of individuals that will begin meeting together to study funding options and it would most likely include representatives from the Prosecutors office, the Courts, and a County Commissioner.


The Court Administrators said they would place next year's contracts for public defense services on Tuesday's Commissioners Agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

**CLERK OF THE BOARD**

  
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Julie Kjorsvik

**KITITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
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Brett Wachsmith, Chairman

**11/30/21 MINUTES**

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**APPROVED**

12/7/21