

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

TUESDAY

1:00 P.M.

AUGUST 23, 2022

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Jeanne Killgore, Human Resource Director; Patti Stacey, Solid Waste Director/Interim Maintenance Director/Project Manager; Sarah Keith, Superior Court Administrator; Judge Paul Sander, Lower District Court; Brian Carlson, Budget & Finance Director; Greg Zempel, Prosecutor; Doug Mitchell, Deputy Prosecutor; Superior Court Judge Scott Sparks; Daniel Berkshire, Judicial Assistant; and approximately 7 members of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENSE COMMISSIONERS

At 1:02 p.m. Chairman Osiadacz opened a Special Meeting to consider a presentation from the Office of Public Defense Committee.

There were no citizens requesting to provide public comment.

Lower District Court Judge Paul Sander reviewed the work that had been completed by the Public Defense Advisory Committee relating to the creation of a Public Defense Department. They recommended approval of an Ordinance which would direct the creation of a Public Defense Department; establish the Office of Director of that Department; establish the authority and responsibilities of the Department and its personnel; and to amend Kittitas County Code Chapter 2.09. The initial start-up cost was approximately \$500,000.00.

The Board asked various questions of the committee members. They recommended people continuing to advocate to the State for full funding as it's an unfunded mandate and costly to the County. The Board thanked the committee members for their time and hard work and acknowledged the collaboration between everyone throughout the process.

ORDINANCE 2022-010 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENSE COMMISSIONERS

VICE-CHAIRMAN WRIGHT moved to approve Ordinance No. 2022-010, Directing the Creation of a Public Defense Department, Establishing the Office of Director of that Department, Establishing the Authority and Responsibilities of the Department and Its Personnel, and Amending Chapter 2.09 of the Kittitas County Code Accordingly;

APPROVED
9.6.22

fill out items in Section 2 at a later date once figures have been determined by the Budget & Finance Director; and grant authority to the Prosecutor's office to direct IT to correct any scribes' errors in the published website version of the Code without needing to return to the Board of County Commissioners for any further authorization. **COMMISSIONER WACHSMITH** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Patti Stacey, Solid Waste Director/Interim Maintenance Director/Project Manager, asked the Board how much space would be needed for the new department including the size of offices for attorneys, Director, technology, and any clerical staff. Judge Sander felt a Director should be hired immediately, as well as an Office Manager because they would have a better understanding of the space need requirements. The Board directed Ms. Stacey to research and explore options to either Lease or Sublease space for the department, including an office trailer package and return to the Board with her findings.


The meeting was concluded at 1:41 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD



Julie Kjorsvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Laura Osiadacz, Chairman