

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

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

AUGUST 15, 2023

Board members present: Chairman Cory Wright & Vice-Chairman Brett Wachsmith. Excused: Commissioner Laura Osiadacz.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Mandy Buchholz, Office Administrator; Mark Cook, Public Works/CDS Director; Josh Fredrickson, Engineer; Arden Thomas, Water Resource Program Manager; Brian Carlson, Budget & Finance Manager; Zack DeHaven, Accountant II; and 4 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

SPEED LIMIT WILSON CREEK ROAD

PUBLIC WORKS

At 2:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** opened a Public Hearing to consider a Speed Increase on Wilson Creek Road and to Amend the Kittitas County Code Chapter 10.08.020, Speed Limits.

JOSH FREDRICKSON, ENGINEER, reviewed a Staff Report including the background of a request they received to increase the speed limit from 35 mph to 50 mph on Wilson Creek Road. He reviewed the speed data collected, safety standards, history of vehicle crashes, and direct access along the section. He mentioned the public comments that had been received.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: **DIRK JOHNSON** said he owns a home off Wilson Creek Road, and they've counted 17 families who access the road from their home. He said it's elevated out of most driveways and does not feel the reward is worth the risk to increase the speed limit. **CHERYL JOHNSON** said there were a lot of families who walk, ride bikes, including the cross-country team that runs that road, and with no shoulders on the road, it's a risk in itself. She didn't see what would be gained by increasing the speed limit. **PAT KELLEHER** said 85% of the traffic is already going above the posted speed and believed it's a compliance issue. He said law enforcement should either be ticketing people for speeding, or the County should increase the speed limit. He felt the speed study should have been conducted at the mid-point of the road and not near Judge Ronald Road to get better accuracy. **THERE BEING NO OTHERS REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT moved to deny the request to increase speed limit on Wilson Creek Road. **VICE-CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** seconded. **VICE-CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** said he drives that road frequently and there's a lot of driveways in the area, and if the speed was increased it would only encourage people to drive faster. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** explained how

08/15/2023 MINUTES

1

APPROVED
10-3-2023

there's a separation of powers and enforcing the speed limit laws are not in the Commissioners jurisdiction. He encouraged people to talk to the Sheriff about enforcement if they have concerns. He felt there will continue to be requests to reduce speed limits as the County grows. Motion carried 2-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

AMEND 2023 BUDGET

AUDITOR

At 2:18 p.m. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** opened a Public Hearing to consider amending the 2023 Budget.

BRIAN CARLSON, BUDGET & FINANCE DIRECTOR, reviewed proposed amendments to the 2023 budget, in the amount of \$2,618,172. He said he planned on preparing one or two more amendments by the end of the year.

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

RESOLUTION 2023-133

AMEND 2023 BUDGET

AUDITOR

VICE-CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH moved to approve Resolution No, 2023-133, Amending the 2023 County Budget. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

LEASE OF WATER

PUBLIC WORKS

At 2:27 p.m. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** opened a Public Hearing to consider Leasing Water to Successful Bidders Addressing the 2023 Drought Water Demand, and to Set an Auction Date for September 5, 2023.

ARDEN THOMAS, WATER RESOURCE PROGRAM MANAGER, reviewed a Staff Report and recommended Board approval for Short Term Leases of Certain County-Owned Water, minimum bid of \$285.00 per acre-foot of consumptive water, and to authorize the Treasurer to sign the leases as the lessor.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: ROBBIE SOLTZ, WATER CONSERVANCY BOARD, asked if the leases were going to be limited for uses within Kittitas County. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** affirmed they would be for uses within Kittitas County.

RESOLUTION 2023-134

LEASE OF WATER

PUBLIC WORKS

VICE-CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-134, Authorizing Short Term Leases of Certain County-Owned Water. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** seconded.

VICE-CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH said he was very proud of the program and the benefits for Kittitas County. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** said the water

staying in Kittitas County was a critical part of the Short-Term Leases. He noted you have to have a well and they were not for new use. Motion carried 2-0.

The meeting concluded at 2:37 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD



Julie Kjosrvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Chairman Cory Wright