

**KITTITAS COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS STUDY SESSION MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' AUDITORIUM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 109
Regular Meeting**

MONDAY

1:30 PM

FEBRUARY 26, 2024

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

Others: Mark Cook, Josh Fredrickson, Reid Burbank, Rebecca Cruse, Public Works; Jessica Miller, Community Development Services; Stephanie Hartung, Prosecuting Attorney; Bryan Elliot, Brian Carlson, Andrew Yoder, Zack Dehaven, Auditors Office; Amy Cziske, Kylee Wuesthoff, Treasurers Office; Amy McGuffin, Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce; 2 members of the public.

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

No citizen comments.

REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING KITTITAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS SUBRECIPIENT OF A UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT AND APPLY FOR SAID GRANT

Mark Cook briefed the Board of County Commissioners on a request received from the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce to secure a USDA grant as subrecipient. Mark Cook stated the grant will result in a rating for the County's ability to serve the Biomass industry. Amy McGuffin stated the firm reached out to Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce about the biomass rating and believes it will be favorable. Vice Chairman Laura Osiadacz moved to approve Resolution 2024-042 and the motion was seconded by Chairman Brett Wachsmith.

KITTITAS COUNTY AUDITOR'S PROPOSAL CONSOLIDATING FINANCIAL SERVICES

Mark Cook briefed the Board of County Commissioners on moving Public Works Finance Staff under the direction of the Auditor's Office. Mark Cook stated that Public Works has an advanced financial team that works closely with all levels in the department, and it is crucial to keep financial staff resources available to Public Works Staff. Bryan Elliot stated he desires to maintain continuity of the department and believes staff will benefit from this merger with implementation expected April 1st. The Board asked if any of the staff present wished to comment, and no comments were provided. Direction was given for management to move forward with plans.

SEARCH AND RESCUE BUILDING AND BUILD-OUT OF THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

Mark Cook updated the Board of County Commissioners on the status of the site and estimated steps toward construction including the Sherrif's Department securing \$4 million for the buildout.

RANCH PROPERTIES ACCESS ISSUE

Mark Cook briefed the Board of County Commissioners on Lund Lane Bridge and accessing Ranch Communities over the Kittitas Reclamation District Canal. Mark Cook proposed they offer Public Work's temporary bridge in exchange for Ranch Properties engaging in voluntary compliance on code related issues. Discussion was held. Commissioner Cory Wright supported engaging the community members for compliance, no consensus on direction to staff occurred.

BOWERS FIELD WEBSITE FUNDING

Josh Fredrickson stated the Airport Advisory Committee requested that a 3rd party be hired to create a website for the airport to advance economic growth. Josh Fredrickson estimated it would be \$13,000 to get started and maintenance costs after. Commissioner Cory Wright and Chairman Brett Wachsmith both are in favor of pursuing the website and directed staff to secure funding possibly available through .09 tax.

Meeting concluded at 2:04 PM

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER:
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Rebecca Cruse, Administrative Assistant



Brett Wachsmith, Chairman