

Present:

Ryan Wixson, *Chair*

Kristen Fabry, *Secretary*

Brandon Meyers

Caleb Reese

Paula Wildes

Donna Hart

Kane Fenner

Garth Steadman

Kyle Bardwell

Absent:

Sarah Philley Obert, *Vice Chair*

David Emmons

Jay Christian

David Fergus

Donna Hart

Gretchen Ritter-Lopatowski

Wendy Kile

County Representatives:

Katie Walters, County Commissioner

James Bunn, *Policy Analyst*

Meeting Called to Order:

- Ryan Wixson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:04pm. 30 people were in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda and the Minutes:

- Caleb Reese moved to adopt, and Brandon Meyers seconded the December 3rd Agenda and the November 5th Minutes. The Council voted and both motions passed unanimously.

Community Recognition:

- Commissioner Walters recognized Brandon Myers, past Chairman, for his service to the community council since 2017. She presented him a plaque and appreciated his representation from the Sheriff's Office.
- Commissioner Walters also recognized Kane Fenner and presented him a certificate and coin of thanks for his participation on the CKCC for the past year. He will be vacating his CKCC position because Commissioner Walters has appointed him to the Planning Commission.

New Business:

County Budget Update Kitsap – Amber Dunwiddie, Director, and Kristofer Carlson, Budget Manager, from the County Department of Administrative Services provided an annual update on the county budget.

- The Budget for Kitsap County is \$651M. The General Fund makes up 21% of the Budget. Special Revenue is 35% (Roads, Real estate, Enhanced 911 Excise Fund), Enterprise Funds are 27% (Public Works). Sources of funds come from property tax, sales tax, misdemeanor charges, state/federal, grants, and sewer fees.
- The county employees 1300 people. Of those, 650 are paid from the general fund.

- Jail medical costs are skyrocketing as are the bed rates for stays in the Jail at the Sheriff's office.
- WA State has the lowest % of sheriff's on patrol and Kitsap is in the Bottom 5 in the State.
- 44.73% of our GF goes to the Sheriff's Office.
- Brandon Meyers noted that Kitsap County has 62 positions but only 30 people hired in those positions. Even if all those positions were filled we would still be short for the number of deputies we should have on patrol relative to state averages.
- The challenge is that the only source of funding for the Sheriff's office is the General Fund. WA has no state income tax funds to rely on, as do other states. Running the jail is very costly and there is no outside coverage or insurance for the medical treatments provided to inmates. This is all coming out of tax payer dollars/General Fund.
- Constituents are encouraged to call their Representatives to bring this issue to the State level. Rep. Simmons is pushing to get Medical jail support as this issue is currently bankrupting the counties.
- The sales tax forecast is 5% better than expected. Revenue income is not keeping up with the deficit.
- New construction impact fees are paid when homes close. New homes are reassessed over 3 years. In 2024 there was \$500,000 in income on new construction.
- The annual 1% increase on property tax is limiting.
- Road Fund: Excise tax goes into the road bucket; the fund is worse off than the General Fund.
- Roads will be seal coated rather than repaved.
- Money was diverted from Roads to the General Fund to the Sheriff.
- The County can ask voters to raise property or sales tax in the future.
- Brandon spoke to the Sheriff Office concerns, as discussed earlier in the meeting. A Public Safety Commission to include both Sheriff and Fire would be an advantage. This is a state level action.
- The Budget presentation in it's entirety can be found at:
[<https://www.kitsap.gov/.../Budget%20Hearings%202026.pdf>]

Committee Reports:

- Paula gave a brief update about two upcoming Community Events: Tracyton Tree Lighting, on Sunday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church on Naomi. The Old Town Trail of Lights, with a lighted car and boat parade and Santa on the Fire truck will take place on Saturday, December 13th starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Brewhouse on Byron. Also, a reminder to sign up for the Kitsap County Digest.

Public Comments:

- There were few public comments, as most concerns were answered during the Budget

Update.

- A community member asked about a proposed roundabout project on Central Valley. Commissioner Walters addressed the question saying that the project will begin in 2028 at Waaga Way (SR303) and Central Valley.
- Public comment is opened through Friday, December 12th by visiting the WSDOT's project page. Information will also be in Commissioner Walter's December 8th newsletter. The commissioner also talked about a roundabout project at the Transit Center on Ridgetop.

Council Announcements:

- Brandon talked about the "Annual Shop-with-a-Cop" event at the Poulsbo Walmart, on Saturday the 6th. There are 150 children that participate and have \$200 to purchase gifts, Brandon said it's heartwarming to see these children pick out gifts for family members as well as themselves.
- Commissioner Walters talked about the "Hidden in Plain Sight" event on Thursday the 4th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Mountain View Middle School. Flyers are on the Kitsap County Website.
- Calab announced: the Port has demolished the Old Town Pub and is getting bids for a fence. The Rowing Club will use the area to store their boats.
- Monica, a long-term CKCC member and owner of Monica's Café has sold the Café. She will be at the Café from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. this week. Please stop by to thank her for her community contributions and wish her well.

Meeting Adjourned

- Ryan thanked everyone for their attendance tonight. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 14th, 2026.
- Ryan Wixson, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:26pm

Respectfully submitted by Kristen Fabry CKCC 2025 Secretary