

BOCC MINUTES-09/08/2020

083337 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.** Michael Largent, Chairman, Arthur D Swannack (remotely) and Dean Kinzer Commissioners (remotely), Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board (remotely) and Connie Ellis, Deputy Clerk of the Board attended.

9:00 a.m. - Call to Order/Board Business/BOCC Workshop.

Remotely: Lance Bishop, Jessica Jensema, Ellary Holliday, Bailey Wiedmer, Jeff Collier, Kelli Campbell, Sandy Jamison, Radio Station, Brandon Kruger, Dean Cornelison, Tom Handy, Mariah Valles, Jacob Jones, Bill Spence, WC Gazette and Rob Curry (9:00 a.m.).

083338 1. The following items were discussed but no action was taken.

- Emergency Proclamation/Fires
- CARES Consultant/Extend Contract
- County Website/Resource Link
- 2021 Budget Deficit
- 2021 Budget Reviews
- Draft CARES Resource Guide
- Gov's Letter to Fish & Wildlife
- County Roads Update

10:00 a.m. - Recess.

10:15 a.m. - Flag Salute.

Present: Jody Opheim.

Remotely: Lance Bishop, Jessica Jensema, Brandon Kruger, Ellary Holliday, Jeff Collier, Tom Handy, Mariah Valles, WC Gazette, Michele Beckmann, Jana Mathia, Bill Spence, Paull, Jacob Jones, Kelli Campbell, Doug Advornick, Bailey Wiedmer, iPhone2, Craig Wines (10:15 a.m.)

D083338A 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda:

083339 3. Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and **carried** to accept the consent agenda as presented.

083340-083341 4. Treasurer's Wire Transfers and Check Report in the amount of **\$126,232.55** and General Claims/Veterans' Relief warrants numbered 083341 for **\$300.00** approved.

083342 5. August 31, 2020 minutes approved.

083343-083356 6. Personnel change orders approved.

D083356A 6A. Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and **carried** to amend the agenda adding item #6B and amending item #20.

083357 6B. Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and **carried** to approve an emergency declaration for the fires in Whitman County, more specifically, but not limited to fires located in Colfax, fires west of Colfax, Pine City and Malden, Washington.

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY WASHINGTON
EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

**IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 38.52**)

RESOLUTION NO. 083357)

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WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6), the Board of County Commissioners, Whitman County, Washington, has the care of County property and the management of County funds and business; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(7), the Board of County Commissioners may make and enforce, by appropriate resolutions or ordinances, all such police and fire regulations that are not in conflict with the state law; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(42.30.080), the Board of County Commissioners may dispense with the notice requirements for a special meeting when such a special meeting is called to deal with an emergency involving injury or damage to persons or property or the likelihood of such injury or damage, when time requirements of such notice would make notice impractical and increase the likelihood of such injury or damage; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 38.52 RCW, in the instance where an emergency is declared, the Board of County Commissioners of Whitman County has the right to exercise certain powers and duties as provided for in said chapter without the necessity of complying with time consuming procedures and formalities; and,

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Management and Sheriff has briefed the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners of Whitman County on the likelihood of an ongoing emergency that began Monday, September 7, 2020, due to numerous fires within the County, specifically, but not limited to fires located in Colfax, west of Colfax, Pine City and Malden, Washington in Whitman County; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of the advice of the Whitman County Sheriff and the Incident Command Team in charge of emergency operation related to these fires, the Board of County Commissioners of Whitman County is desirous of declaring an emergency pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 38.52 RCW without regard to time consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law, including, but not limited to, budget law limitations, requirements of competitive bidding and publications of notices, provisions pertaining to the performance of entering into contracts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Whitman County, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 38.52 RCW, the Board does hereby acknowledge and declares an emergency exists due to numerous fires in Whitman County, more specifically, but not limited to fires located in Colfax, fires west of Colfax, fires in Pine City and Malden, Washington and in so doing does authorize the execution of powers vested in Chapter 38.52 RCW by the Board of County Commissioners without regard to time consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of September 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Michael Largent, Chairman

Arthur D Swannack, Commissioner

Dean Kinzer, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board
BY: Connie Ellis
Deputy Clerk of the Board

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083358 7. Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and **carried** to authorize the publishing of a notice of hearing for the 2021 Whitman County preliminary budget hearing.

083359 8. Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and **carried** to authorize the publishing of a notice for budget amendment #3 to the 2020 Whitman County budget.

083360 9. Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and **carried** to approve the letter of agreement with the Corrections Officers and Support Staff bargaining unit concerning the automated time system.

083361 10. Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and **carried** to sign a resolution to declare the listed communication equipment surplus as presented.

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING COUNTY) RESOLUTION NO. 083361
PROPERTY UNDER \$2,500 SURPLUS AND)
AUTHORIZING THE SALE, DONATION OR)
DISPOSAL OF THE SAME)

WHEREAS, in accordance with R.C.W. 36.34.020 and Whitman County Commissioners resolution #073282, authorization is granted to department managers to dispose of surplus property at the discretion of the department manager without publishing an intent to sell, provided the individual value does not exceed \$2,500; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, after due consideration, have declared the attached list of items as surplus to the County's needs.

1. Motorola Paging Nucleus Qty. 1.
2. Motorola Imacs Mux Qty. 1.
3. Adtrans Atlas 550 Qty. 7.
4. Assorted DXS panels Qty. 5.
5. Atlas TSU 600 Mux Qty. 2.
6. Motorola Quantar Qty. 1.
7. 48v DC power module Qty. 1.
8. Alcatel-Lucent 18GHz microwave Qty.1.
9. VHF radio duplexer Qty.16.
10. Motorola GTR 8000 VHF radio repeaters QTY. 8.
11. Convex modules QTY. 10.
12. Simulcast Solutions NBL4 Qty. 5
13. Harris simulcast Mux Qty. 15.
14. GatesAir Multiplexer and parts QTY. 1.
15. Zetron Model 211 Paging terminal Qty. 2
16. Tait VHF radio repeaters Qty. 18.
17. Miscellaneous boxes of parts and scrap wire Qty. 3.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners, that the above listed equipment is declared surplus and may be sold, donated or disposed of by the Department Manager in accordance with law.

Dated this 7th day of September, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Michael Largent, Chairman

ATTEST:

Dean Kinzer, Commissioner

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Arthur D Swannack, Commissioner

083362 11. Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and **carried** to approve the annual contract **#2083-90531** between Whitman County and Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).

083363 12. Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and **carried** to approve submittal of the CDBG-CV1 grant as presented.

083364 13. Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and **carried** to sign the 2020-2021 CDBG-PS grant contract #20-62210-016 and the signature authorization form as presented.

083365 14. Commissioner Kinzer reported there are 844 total COVID-19 positive cases with 9 new cases today. The National Guard is in Pullman helping with testing. They can test 200-300 per day. Pullman Regional Hospital is planning to change who they are sending tests to. Cougar Health is up and running and has the capability of testing up to 100 students per day.

083366 15. There were no COVID-19 related decisions.

CORRESPONDENCE:

D083366A 16. No correspondence was received.

083367 17. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

D083367A 18. Approved documents signed.

10:35 a.m. - Recess.

11:00 a.m. - Call to Order/Board Business/BOCC Workshop.

Remotely: Jessica Jensema, Lance Bishop, Brandon Kruger, Ellary Holliday, Jeff Collier, Tom Handy, WC Gazette, Michele Beckmann, Bailey Wiedmer, and Kelli Campbell (11:00 a.m.).

083338 19. The following items were discussed but no action was taken.

- Voluntary Early Retirement Plan (VERP)

11:20 a.m. - Recess.

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1:00 p.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued.

Present: Dean Cornelison, Brandon Kruger, Bill Tensfeld, Janelle Goebel, Robin Cocking, and Alisha Matelski.

D083368A 20. Commissioners toured Colfax, west of Colfax, Malden and Pine City to assess scope of fire damage. No decisions were made.

D083368B THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met remotely in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.** Michael Largent, Chairman, Arthur D Swannack and Dean Kinzer, Commissioners (remotely) Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board (remotely) attended.

11:00 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.

Remotely: Lance Bishop, Jessica Jensema, and Tom Handy (11:00 a.m.).

083369 21. The following 2021 budget reviews were conducted.

- Information Technology

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

1:30 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.

Remotely: Jessica Jensema, Connie Ellis, Tom Handy (1:30 p.m.), Brandy Dean (2:00 p.m.), and Brett Meyers (3:00 p.m.).

083370 22. The following 2021 budget reviews were conducted.

- Commissioners
- Facilities
- Sheriff

4:00 p.m. - Recess.

D08370A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Monday, September 14, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.** Michael Largent, Chairman, Arthur D Swannack and Dean Kinzer (remotely) Commissioners, Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board (remotely) and Connie Ellis, Deputy Clerk of the Board attended.

8:00 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.

Remotely: Lance Bishop, Jeff Marshall, Mark Storey, Marlynn Markley, Tom Handy, Judge John Hart, Judge Gary Libey, Lorena Lynch, Jill Whelchel, Jessica Jensema (8:00 a.m.), and Brandon Kruger (9:00 a.m.).

083371 23. The following items were discussed but no action was taken.

- County Recording System

D08371A 24. Approved consent agenda items signed.

083372 25. Treasurers Wire Transfers and Check Report in the amount of **\$244,221.88**, Payroll warrants numbered **350912-350922** for **\$658,931.96** and General/Veterans' Relief/Payroll warrants numbered **350928-351058** for **\$209,093.95** approved.

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083373-083374 **26.** Personnel change orders approved.

9:05 a.m. - BOCC Workshop.

Remotely: Lance Bishop, Bill Tensfeld, Jessica Jensema, Tom Handy, Ellary Holliday, Brandon Kruger, Sandy Jamison, WC Gazette, Mark Storey, Chris Nelson, Jacob Jones, Dean's Phone, and Brandy Dean (9:05 a.m.).

083375 **27.** The following items were discussed but no action was taken.

- CARE's Consultant Extension
- CARES/Indirect Cost
- CARES/Additional Funding
- Veterans' Advisory Board
- Email/Adam Lincoln's Resignation
- Special Meeting in Malden
- Fires Tour Update
- County Road Update
- County Fires Clean-Up
- Manning Bridge
- Fires Assessment Team
- Elections Press Release

9:25 a.m. - Recess.

9:30 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/Executive Session.

Present: Bailey Wiedmer, Gary Hunt and Valerie Hunt.
Remotely: Kelli Campbell.

083376 **28.** Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and **carried** to go into executive session with the above individuals until 10:45 a.m. in accordance with RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) for matters related to negotiations.

10:45 a.m. - Return to Open Session/Recess.

1:00 p.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/Executive Session.

Remotely: Brandy Dean (1:00 p.m.).

083377 **29.** Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and **carried** to go into executive session with the above individual until 1:45 p.m. in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) for matters related to employee performance.

1:30 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Recess.

1:45 p.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/Executive Session.

Remotely: Mark Storey (1:45 p.m.) and Lance Bishop (2:30 p.m.).

D083377A **29A.** Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and **carried** to go into executive session with the above individual until 3:15 p.m. in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) for matters related to employee performance.

3:00 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Recess.

3:15 p.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/Executive Session.

Remotely: Troy Henderson (3:15 p.m.) and Bill Tensfeld (4:00 p.m.).

D083377B **29C.** Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and **carried** to go into executive session with the above individual until 5:00 p.m. in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) for matters related to employee performance.

5:00 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Adjourn.

D083377C Commissioner Swannack **moved** to adjourn the **September 8th, 9th and 14th 2020** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Kinzer and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in their Chambers', in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington, on **September 21, 2020**. The foregoing action made this **14th day of September 2020**.

ss/ DEAN KINZER, COMMISSIONER
ss/ ARTHUR D SWANNACK, COMMISSIONER

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board
BY: Connie Ellis
Deputy Clerk of the Board

MICHAEL LARGENT, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners

D083377D **THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in Malden, Washington for **Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.** for a **Special Meeting** in Malden. Michael Largent, Chairman, Arthur D Swannack and Dean Kinzer Commissioners, Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board and Connie Ellis, Deputy Clerk of the Board attended.

9:00 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/Special Meeting.

Present: Fred Tribble, Paul Kimmell, Jeff Guyette, Jeff Tietjen, Linda Pritchett, Jenna McDonald, Chris Ferrell, Bill Tensfeld, JR Troyer, Chandra Fox, Gerry Bozarth, Eric Fejeran, Faith Collins, Mark Sheldon, Shantel McGuire, Cathy Bryson, Douglas Den, Mary Wiley, Tom Jarms, Shelly O'Quinn, Scott Hoquinson and approximately 200 others.

083378 31. The following items were discussed regarding the Malden, Pine City outlying Babb Road fire recovery, but no action was taken.

Fred Tribble, Emergency Operations Section Chief with Whitman County and American Red Cross, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He stated the meeting was about recovery and encouraged everyone to come together as a team. He introduced Commissioner Largent who opened the meeting for the county at 11:00 a.m. Malden Mayor, Chris Ferrell, then opened the meeting for the Town of Malden.

Mr. Tribble encouraged residents stating although it would be a long and arduous process, they were not alone. He said, "The nation has heard". He introduced Ryan Rodin, Executive Director for the American Red Cross. Mr. Rodin provided an update of resources currently available to affected residents. Those who lost homes in the fire are being provided shelter at the Ramada and the Wyndham hotels in Spokane. Other resources available are hot meals, counselors, hard goods and medical goods. The Vet Center bus is parked in Malden and outreach program specialists are available to offer counseling and provide answers of where people can go to get specific resources.

Mr. Tribble thanked Malden, Massachusetts for lending their support and collecting funds on our behalf. He asked for a show of hands of those present and affected by the fire in Pine City and the rural area. He reminded everyone Malden is not the only town affected and everyone needs to pull together.

Mr. Tribble talked about long term recovery. It will require removal of debris, toxic waste, dealing with issues that come with reconstruction (i.e. well water), policy changes, and state and county agencies weighing in on the issues.

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Mr. Tribble stated the first step is the people directly affected by the fire need to get organized and form a Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC). To be eligible to be on the committee, one must be directly affected by the fires. Mr. Tribble stated under the executive committee there should be sub-committees. These should include case management, volunteer management, fundraising, public affairs, needs, grievance, policy, social and technology. He also warned the residents there will be those who will try to take advantage of their loss. If an offer is "too good to be true, it probably is".

Introductions were made of people who represent different organizations offering resources. Some of these organizations included Avista, Community Action Center, Red Lions of Rosalia, NW Justice Project, United Way, Veterans' Center, Veterans' Affairs, Jarm's Ace Hardware, INNOVIA, Spokane Emergency Management, and several church associations.

Mr. Tribble opened it up to citizens for comments and questions. Several citizens spoke up with concerns. A main concern was how residents would know when meetings would take place. The concerned resident stated this meeting took place on a Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. She stated hard working people could not attend during workdays and hours, and many were not aware it was taking place. She went on to voice that everyone needed to have a vote and say, and wanted to know how they would be notified if there were a meeting. Most of them had lost everything and no longer have a way to communicate. After several emotional outbursts, Councilman Scott Hoquinson took the mic. He affirmed the residents reminding them it was they who made sure everyone made it out safe with very little warning. He stated they, the residents, looked out for each other, and they will continue to do so. He committed himself and the town council of making sure everyone will be heard.

Mr. Tribble ended by reiterating the need for everyone to set aside differences and come together. He reminded them the first step is organizing a long term recovery committee. Commissioner Largent stepped forward and closed the Whitman County special meeting at 11:50 a.m. Mayor Chris Ferrell closed the Town of Malden special meeting.

11:50 a.m. - Adjournment.

D083378A Commissioner Largent **moved** to adjourn the **September 15 2020** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Kinzer and **carried**.

ss/ DEAN KINZER, COMMISSIONER
ss/ ARTHUR D SWANNACK, COMMISSIONER

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board
BY: Connie Ellis
Deputy Clerk of the Board

MICHAEL LARGENT, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners