

Minutes for January 14th, 2002

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059152 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **January 14, 2002 at 10:05 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

D059151A 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.

10:05 a.m. - Board Business.

D059152B 2. Motion by Commissioner Finch to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

059152 3. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **130425-130486** and **130507-130543** for **\$597,035.46** approved.

FUND #	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
690	Clearing & Suspense	\$248,073.98
ET	Electronic Transfer	\$348,961.48

059154 4. January 7, 2002 minutes approved.

059155-059162 5. Personnel board orders approved.

10:10 a.m. - Evan Ellis, Chris Anderson and Jennifer Snead.

059163 6. Motion by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to sign a resolution supporting the continuation of the State Library.

RESOLUTION NO. 059163

BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed budget for 2002 calls for the elimination of the State Library; and,

WHEREAS, the State Library is the conduit to pass through over \$3 million annually to help local communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Whitman County Library has received over \$250,000 in the past 15 years for Whitman County to offer up-to-date technology, services and materials that we could not have otherwise afforded; and,

WHEREAS, the Whitman County Library as a junior taxing district stands to lose a significant part of its operating capital due to I-747; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Washington is already one of only three states that offer no state funding for local libraries; and,

WHEREAS, if closed, Washington State will be the only State in the union without a State Library; and,

WHEREAS, the Whitman County Commissioners believes that the Whitman County Library is a critical part of a rural county's identity; and,

WHEREAS, the Whitman County Commissioners support the magnificent job now being done by the Whitman County Library and its staff in providing the citizens of Whitman County the most efficient, reliable and cost-effective library system in the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Whitman County Commissioners will strive to protect and defend the Washington State Library, and by association the Whitman County Library, from any attempts to eliminate or dilute funding by any interim budget proposals set forth in 2002 by the Washington State Governor or Washington State Legislature.

Dated this 14th day of January 2002 at Colfax, Washington.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Greg Partch, Chairman

ATTEST:

G. R. Finch, Commissioner

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Les Wigen, Commissioner

059164 A copy of the above resolution and a letter was sent to the Governor opposing his proposal to close the State Library.

059165 7. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to authorize the 2002 IRS mileage rate reimbursement of \$.365 for Whitman County. Letter sent to all departments notifying them of the rate change effective January 1, 2002.

059166 8. Letters sent to Tim Myers, Janel Goebel, and Terry Jefferies thanking them for their assistance with the "Tree of Sharing" developmental disabilities project.

059167 9. A letter of sympathy was signed and sent to the family of Nathan Hays via the Spokesman Review.

059168 10. The Board received a request for judicial district information from the Office of Financial Management. Information returned as requested.

059169 11. Letter sent to Dale Miller, Chairman of the Blue Ribbon Advisory Task Committee stating the county will not be allocating any .08 funds during the spring of 2002.

059170 12. Letter sent to Kimberly Morris, Whitman Conservation District authorizing \$5,000 towards the biodiesel study for Whitman County after a **motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

D059170A 13. Commissioners' pending items reviewed.

10:30 a.m. - Recess.

11:00 a.m. - Dane Dunford, Public Works Director.

Present: Phil Anderson, Mark Storey and Bob Anderson.

Building Division:

059171 1. The 2001 fourth quarter activity report for the Building Division received and reviewed.

059172 2. The 2001 year-end activity report for the Building Division also received and reviewed.

Action Items:

059173 3. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to award the bid for the weed spray contract to Darry-Air, Inc. in the total bid amount of \$153,064.50 without tax.

Engineering Division:

D059173A 4. As a point of information, Mr. Dunford said a core drilling company did some work on the Darden Bridge to determine how far it is to solid bearing rock for the bridge pilings. It is 69 feet on the east side of the bridge and 29 feet on the west side to solid rock. The bridge will be built this summer.

Commissioner Wigen commended Mr. Dunford for contacting the residents near the bridge asking them not to haul heavy loads over it in an attempt to extend the life of the bridge another year. He also commended the farmers for their cooperation.

Planning Division:

D059173B 5. The Director noted that the Board of Adjustment met on January 3rd and granted a variance for a pole building in Steptoe and 5 anemometers at the river.

Maintenance Division:

D059173C 6. Mr. Dunford reported due to weather conditions, the Department is issuing haul road permits today and possibly through the end of the week.

11:30 a.m. - Fran Martin, Public Health Director.

D059173D Ms. Martin explained the need for refilling a vacant Community Health Nurse position and the Board voiced no objections.

11:35 a.m. - Recess.

1:30 p.m. - Tim Myers and Evon Jones, Capital Improvement Program Co-Chairs.

059174 The 2002 capital improvement program ranking listing 31 projects were presented to the commissioners. In addition, Mr. Myers reviewed the 2001-awarded projects and the status of the same.

According to Mr. Myers, projects that could potentially be completed using .08 funds include:

- #2 Refurbish Kitchen/Restrooms in Community Building at the Fairgrounds;
- #4 Refurbish Fairgrounds Grandstands;
- #12 RV Park Renovations at the Fairgrounds;
- #13 All Weather Parking Area at the Fairgrounds; and,
- #17 Permanent Outdoor Stage/Shaded Area (Gazebo) at the Fairgrounds.

The Board authorized Mr. Myers to proceed now with item #28; installation of overhead room air conditioners in the District Courtroom. The commissioners will review the remaining projects in a workshop on January 22nd.

1:55 p.m. - Recess.

2:00 p.m. - Bart Dearborn, Safety Committee Chairman.

D059174A 1. As Chair of the Safety Committee, Mr. Dearborn was present to relay two concerns to the Board. The first is a need to update the Evacuation Procedure Guidelines with the possibility of separating the Bomb Threat Procedures from the Evacuation Procedure Guidelines. Mr. Dearborn indicated it was the opinion of the Undersheriff that these two guidelines should be separated into two procedures. The Safety Committee would like the Board to appoint individual(s) to update the guidelines. The commissioners agreed the Incident Team was the logical committee to initially take on this responsibility realizing it may be necessary to farm out different sections of the guidelines to other individuals/committees.

D059174B 2. The second issue involved mailroom security. Suggested resolution of this matter is the installation of a door thereby providing limited access to employees only. Installing a keypad on the door would require a code to enter the mailroom. If approved, the question of funding would need to be decided by the Board.

2:05 p.m. - Dick Brown.

The Board was in agreement to proceed with the installation of a door with a window. Mr. Dearborn was asked to have Tom Miller of Facilities Management visit with the Board regarding this issue.

2:15 p.m. - Kelli Shrope, Human Resources.

D059174C Motion by Commissioner Finch to go into Executive Session with Ms. Shrope for discussion of personnel matters until 2:30 p.m. **Seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

2:30 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Adjourn.

D059174D Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **January 14, 2002** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in their Chambers', in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington, on **January 22, 2002**. The foregoing action made this **14th** day of **January 2002**.

ss/ JERRY FINCH, Commissioner
ss/ LES WIGEN, Commissioner

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners