

Minutes for February 4, 2008

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067801 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Monday, February 4, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.** Chairman Michael Largent, G.R. Finch and Greg Partch, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

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

Present: Denis Tracy.

067802 1. Items discussed included Hawkins' proposal, Port infrastructure, Civil Service Commission response and LIFT grant. No action taken.

9:30 a.m. - Recess.

9:45 a.m. - Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Fran Martin, Sharron Cunningham and Maria Thomas.

D067802A 2. Ms. Martin said the upcoming storm is of concern. The forecast is calling for 2"-5" of snow with surface winds expected today. She will participate in the National Weather Service briefing today at 1:30 p.m. There is another briefing on Wednesday with the hydrologist. After Wednesday the temperature is supposed to warm up but freeze at night. Chairman Largent thought all communications worked well the previous week. Ms. Martin suggested establishing true continuity for the county i.e. essential people that must come to work. Commissioner Partch said he will be taking information to Olympia tomorrow regarding reimbursement to the county for expenses incurred as a result of the storms.

D067802B 3. Motion by Commissioner Finch to accept the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried**.

067803 4. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **212357-212418** for **\$135,785.74** approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	19,806.04
104	Developmental Services	220.52
106	Extension Publications	59.40

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110	County Roads	135.00
111	CETC Building	838.18
129	House Bill 3900-CASA	19.40
135	Prosecutor's Stop Grant	25.00
144	Emergency Communications-144.260.001	1,594.26
400	Solid Waste	42,109.87
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	70.00
660	Whitcom-General-660.911.000	65,447.63
660	Whitcom-Grant Funding-660.911.001	5,460.44

067804 5. January 28, 2008 minutes approved.

067805-067814 6. Personnel board orders approved.

067815 7. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Partch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize publishing a notice of call for bids for 2008-09 legal printing.

067816 8. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Partch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize publishing a notice canceling the March 10, 2008 regular meeting of the county commissioners.

10:00 a.m. - Joe Smillie.

067816A 9. Discussion concerning continued participation in the Upper Columbia RC&D was held. As the county's representative on this board Chairman Largent indicated he does not have the time to commit to the level of involvement needed for this organization and has prepared a letter of resignation nor did he feel his time is being well spent as an active board member. However, he did suggest Whitman County continue to participate in the annual dues of \$150 and the other members concurred. (Dues claimed processed).

Commissioner Largent was hopeful Whitman County would find another individual to represent the county on this board. The Chairman said he did approach Tammy Lewis about representing the county but her current schedule will not allow.

10. Comments were received from the following individuals concerning the proposed Hawkins Development.

- 067817** Mary Carloye
- 067818** Al Sorensen
- 067819** Cheryl Morgan
- 067820** Phyllis Loehden
- 067821** David Hall

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067821A 11. The commissioners signed a letter to all departments in follow up to the 2008 CIP project awards.

067822 12. The commissioners learned the Governor signed a proclamation declaring a state of emergency due to weather in Adams, Clark, Columbia, King, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman and Yakima counties.

067823 13. Notice was received from the Washington State Liquor Control Board extending the Steptoe Friendly Mart license through 07/31/08.

067824 14. An executed copy of the Harrison Building lease agreement with Greg's Electrical LLC was received (06/30/08).

067825 15. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

10:10 a.m. - Recess.

10:30 a.m. - Mark Storey, Public Works Director.

Present: Phil Meyer, Maria Thomas and Joe Smillie.

ACTION ITEMS

Maintenance Division:

067826 1. Commissioner Finch **moved** Commissioner Partch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to award the bid for one water tank complete with pumps, vales, nozzles and controls mounted on a Whitman County provided truck to Clyde West, Inc. for a total bid amount of \$110,187.00 without tax.

067827 2. Commissioner Partch **moved** Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize publishing a notice of call for bids for one new 2008 six wheel drive, diesel powered, articulated motor grader with trade-in of one 1988 John Deere 772 motor grader, equipment #145.

10:35 a.m. - Devin Rokyta.

067828 3. The 2008 grader blades was awarded through the small works roster process to Western State of Spokane for a total bid amount of \$22,090 without tax.

067829 4. Staff shared pictures showing the amount of snow on various county roads and efforts by the maintenance crews to open the roads as much as possible. The commissioners expressed their sincere appreciation to the operators for their outstanding performance during these very tough weather conditions.

Engineering Division:

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067830 5. A copy of the July 24, 2007 DeAtley Crushing Company notice to proceed with the Doneen Quarry crushing project was received.

D067830A 6. Mark Storey presented the 2007 County Road Administration Board year end report for the commissioners' review.

10:50 a.m. - Recess.

11:00 a.m. - Hawkins Companies Development Agreement.

Present: Devin Rokyta, Joe Smillie, Jeff DeVoe, Robert Phillips, Mark Storey, Evan Ellis, Pete Hertz, Tom Forbes, Paul Kimmell, Sharron Cunningham, Janet Schmidt, Bob Lothspeich and Maria Thomas.

067831 Chairman Largent thanked everyone for attended and noted no public comments would be accepted today. The purpose of today's meeting is to determine whether or not to proceed with a preliminary development agreement with Hawkins Companies.

Prosecutor Denis Tracy indicated the county and Hawkins has engaged in some negotiations over the past several months with Commissioner Finch spearheading these negotiations. The two parties have now come up with a preliminary development agreement. At the direction of Commissioner Finch and others, Jeff DeVoe of Hawkins Companies and he drafted a preliminary agreement.

Commissioner Finch **moved** and Commissioner Partch **seconded** the motion that Whitman County and Hawkins Companies enter into a public/private infrastructure agreement.

Commissioner Finch personally thanked a number of people for all their hard work including, but not limited to Mark Storey, the Planning Department, Sharron Cunningham, Denis Tracy and the other board members for giving him the authority to work on this project and support him along the way, as well as Hawkins Companies and Jeff DeVoe. Commissioner Finch said he was very excited about this development that will set the tenor for the whole corridor and long term financial benefits for Whitman County. He added this is his happiest day since becoming a commissioner.

Commissioner Partch echoed his fellow commissioners' comments and also thanked Commissioner Finch along with the Assessor and Treasurer. Although there are a few unresolved issues, we worked hard to get the state to widen SR 270 the timing was right for Whitman County. Because the public had additional questions about the project, two more weeks of public input was allowed and the board appreciated those comments. Commissioner Partch said he too was happy to be at this point and anxious to move ahead.

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Chairman Largent also thanked county staff and Hawkins. When entering into an agreement of this magnitude the county wants to make sure all figures are accurate. From his perspective, he is interested in one thing and that is a win for Whitman County. Understanding, the county would not have this opportunity if it is not a win for Hawkins too. He did not consider this as an infrastructure investment to help an individual company but rather a win for Whitman County. The investment will not only return county costs but also provide services that are difficult to fund at the current level. He ran for office on promoting economic development and not raising taxes. If taxes are not raised, there will have to be economic development and this is a very reasonable risk. Satisfied with identifying the risks and not charging the taxpayers anything additional Chairman Largent was very pleased with the proposal.

Commissioner Partch further clarified it is important for the people of Whitman County to understand when the county enters into this bond it will not be attached to the people's property tax. It is based on future return of sales tax. He anticipates good returns for Hawkins and the people of Whitman County.

Upon conclusion of a roll call vote, the **motion passed 3-0** in favor of entering into a public/private agreement with Hawkins Companies. The document was signed by all parties.

11:15 a.m. - Recess.

1:30 p.m. - Mike Berney, Greater Columbia Behavioral Health (GCBH) and Palouse River Counseling Center (PRCC).

Present: Maria Thomas.

067832 1. Highlights from November 29th Board meeting and December 17th Special Board meeting. The January Board meeting was canceled.

- Resolution to distribute remaining inpatient savings (approximately \$4M) was passed. This will be the last distribution of "Inpatient Savings".
- The Chair was authorized to sign a contract amendment with GCBH for requested changes (Note: 3 hours later an amended amendment was received from MHD).
- The Executive Committee was authorized to undertake an evaluation for the GCBH Director as per his employment contract.
- Policies that had been reviewed and recommended by the appropriate committee were approved.
- Discussion ensued regarding what if anything needed to be done about the poor independent audit received by a Benton and Franklin counties provider. Benton and Franklin counties will assume oversight of this issue.

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- The Board made their quarterly review of Professional Service Agreements (PSA).
- The 2008 slate of officers (current officers) presented by the Nominating Committee was approved by the entire Board.
- Special Board Meeting: Authorization given for the Chair to sign PHIP and State-only funding contract amendments; authorization was also given for Chair to sign the Children's Warp-Around grant application.
- Board meetings are now being recorded and can be heard on the website.

D067832A 2. A report was received from the Ad-Hoc Committee who reviewed specialized DDD/MH funding from the Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD). A small committee (Mike Berney represents the eastside of GCBH) was appointed by the Chair to discuss with Region 2 DDD leadership how this funding is currently being spent and if they would like any changes. A program in Yakima County was temporarily increased due to additional funds becoming available. The Board will be asking for new ideas/requests that fit the requirements. Mr. Berney will visit with Tim Myers and any other interested parties.

D067832B 3. A request for approval of 2 GCBH policies received. The first policy relates to the dissemination and prioritization of Requests for Proposals (RFP). The second is a renewal of a policy related to service authorization, notices, and appeals. Whitman County supported adoption of these policies.

D067832C 4. A report/recommendation from the GCBH Funding Committee on the outdated funding formula used for distributing Mental Health block Grant Funds (MHBG) received. The committee will be recommending a new formula to the Board that is more defensible. For a few counties within the GCBH, their funding from this source will change significantly so a transition plan will also be recommended. Commissioner Partch **moved** and Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to support the committee's recommendation to transition to the new formula for distributing MHBG funds.

D067832D 5. A request to authorize a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Tri-West for consultation to Yakima County for their large SAMHSA Grant proposal received. In doing so, GCBH would pay 2/3 of the fee while Yakima County would pay 1/3. Whitman County supported authorizing this PSA.

D067832E 6. Mr. Berney will attend the County Coordinator meeting in Spokane February 11th.

1:55 p.m. - Recess.

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2:00 p.m. - One New Pickup Truck for Sheriff's Office.

Present: Phil Meyer and Maria Thomas.

067833 The following bids were received for one new pickup truck.

BIDDER	AMOUNT
Chipman & Taylor, Pullman, WA	\$24,694.80
Jess Ford, Pullman, WA	\$23,866.72
Paradise Ford, Moscow, ID	\$23,381.00
Karl Tyler Motors, Moscow, ID	\$25,676.55

The commissioners will make an award February 11th.

2:15 p.m. - Recess.

3:00 p.m. - Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.

Present: John Love, Bob Gronholz, Dan Boone and Joe Smillie.

067834 13. Items discussed included IPZ update, Hawkins project, LIFT grant, economic development mini summit and rail system. No action taken.

5:00 p.m. - Adjournment.

D0678 Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **February 4, 2008** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in their Chambers', in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington, on **February 11, 2008**. The foregoing action made this **4th** day of **February 2008**.

ss/ GREG PARTCH, COMMISSIONER
ss/ G.R. FINCH, COMMISSIONER

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

MICHAEL LARGENT, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners