

Minutes for February 25th, 2002

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059304 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **February 25, 2002 at 10:05 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

10:05 a.m. - Board Business.

D059304A 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Chris Anderson.

D059304B 2. Motion by Commissioner Finch to approve the Consent Agenda with the deletion of item #2. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

059305 3. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered 132038-132069 and 132088-132250 for \$361,248.72 approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	\$33,467.10	\$ 8,172.00	\$20,937.98
102	Building & Development	1,000.00		14.73
103	Countywide Planning		1,600.00	255.36
105	Mental Health			9,517.61
107	Chemical Dependency			3,613.62
110	County Roads	14,396.60	5,793.60	14,279.82
123	Paths & Trails			30,000.00
139	"911" Emergency Service			8,548.45
400	Solid Waste	1,750.00	883.20	10,385.76
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	2,933.00	1,997.20	189,842.10
510	Photocopier Revolving			1,890.59

059306-059309 4. Personnel board orders approved.

059310 5. Motion by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to sign the Valley Empire Collection agreement.

059311 6. Motion by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to sign the labor relation agreement with Gary A. Hunt for 2002.

059312 7. The Chairman read a letter sent to Dale Miller concerning .08 funding noting a total allocation of \$142,500 for 2002.

059313 8. A letter sent to the Capital Improvement Program Committee was read by the Chairman awarding 5 projects for 2002: #1-refurbish kitchen and restrooms in Community Building at the Fairgrounds; #2-wireless microphone system for District Court; #3-replace sidewalks around Courthouse and Corrections Facility, Courthouse parking lot, walk and entrance; #4-install

2 new radiators in the District Courtroom; and #5-smoking structure at the Courthouse. All projects will be paid by the Infrastructure fund with the exception of #1, which will be paid by the .08 fund.

10:15 a.m. - Steve Tomson.

059314 9. The Sheriff gave the commissioners a copy of a shut off notice he received today for the Sheriff's Department Cellular One service. According to the Sheriff, the County Auditor has not paid his Cellular One telephone bill for 2 months (\$2,890.86) and his service is going to be cut off for lack of payment. Sheriff Tomson will check to see if a payment was included in the claims approved today. If not, the commissioners agreed to prepare an emergency request for payment processed through the Treasurer's office.

059314A 10. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to allow \$1,500 to update the Human Service building telephone system. This expenditure will be deducted from the Infrastructure fund.

D059314B 11. Commissioners' pending items reviewed.

059315 12. Asotin County Public Utility District (PUD) No. 1 wrote the commissioners asking for their support of watershed planning (WRIA #35) and to adopt a resolution supporting the same and acknowledging the PUD as Lead Agency. This issue was tabled to March 4th.

059315A 13. Notice of project completion received from the Office of Community Development for the CDBG F-97-74097-072 administrative close out.

10:30 a.m. - Recess.

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

Present: Mark Storey and Tim Myers.

Action Items:

059316 1. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to publish the notice of call for bids for the Fitzgerald Bridge.

059317 2. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to publish the notice of call for bids for the Warner Bridge.

Bids for both bridges will be opened March 25. There should be much interest in these two projects statewide.

Engineering Division:

D059317A 3. By the end of the week, the Department will be submitting bridges for the spring draw to the Bridge Replacement Advisory Committee (BRAC). Mr. Dunford hoped to 1 or 2 Whitman County bridges will be drawn. Projects will again be submitted in the fall.

D059317B 4. Rural Arterial Program (RAP) road prospectuses will be submitted for \$4.5 million in Whitman County road projects. Once all projects have been inspected, the state will issue a short list in the fall. From that short list Whitman County will select what projects have the best chance for funding.

Finance Division:

D059317C 5. Staff is completing the end of the year work after which time the Public Works Department annual report will be submitted to the Board.

Maintenance Division:

D059317D 6. Mr. Dunford stated crews were out on Sunday with sanders and track hoes are still digging ditches around the county.

11:10 a.m. - Tim Myers.

Administration Division:

059318 7. A brochure was shared with the Board that describes something similar to what the City of Pullman is considering with respect to SR 26, SR 195, and SR 27 north out of Pullman to North Tekoa through the Heritage and Scenic Byway program.

Tim Myers stated there are currently two scenic byways in Whitman County, SR 272 from Colfax to Palouse and SR 194 to Almota.

Commissioner Wigen asked what grant funding is available for scenic byways and Mr. Myers replied, in addition to possible road funds, there is a sense of community development by promoting the scenic byways for tourism types of projects; i.e. pullouts and visitor centers. Dane Dunford added it is all competitive money. According to the Director of the Heritage and Scenic Byway program, funds are available for community, interpretive, pullouts, etc. He did not believe funds are available to construct roads.

Mr. Myers said a Byways Committee has been formed in Pullman and the Mayor is currently the Chair. The Pullman Chamber of Commerce is heavily involved along with Mr. Myers himself. This brings the communities together to focus on everyone working together to bring tourism to the area.

Mr. Dunford's only concern is that this does not hamper county road and bridge projects. Ms. Lorenzo assured him the only restriction on a scenic byway is signage. Any signs already in place would be grand-fathered in, but no new signs would be permitted. There are no restrictions on traffic.

Motion by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to adopt the resolution for the Heritage and Scenic Byway in the Palouse Region.

RESOLUTION NO. 059318

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HERITAGE AND SCENIC BYWAY IN THE PALOUSE REGION.

WHEREAS, the Board of Whitman County Commissioners in consideration of expanding economic development and the overall well-being of the citizens of the Palouse Region and State of Washington has reviewed and desires to pursue a Heritage and Scenic Byway State Designation for the Palouse Region; and,

WHEREAS, the Whitman County Commissioners agree to abide by RCW 47.42, Scenic Vistas Act of 197, as it pertains to county roads; and,

WHEREAS, the Whitman County Commissioners desire to have roads designated as State Heritage and Scenic Byways in order to make said roads eligible for national designation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Whitman County Commissioners approve and authorize Palouse Scenic and Heritage Corridor coordinators to pursue the application for said roads to become part of the state designated system.

ADOPTED by the Whitman County Commissioners at a regular meeting held on Monday, February 25, 2002 at Colfax, Washington.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Greg Partch, Chairman

G. R. Finch, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Les Wigen, Commissioner

059319 8. Personnel board order approved.

11:25 a.m. - Board Business Continued.

059320 14. Motion by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to approve the February 19, 2002 minutes as corrected.

11:30 a.m. - Recess.

12:00 p.m. - Joint Whitman/Latah County Commissioners meeting at Lakey's in Pullman.

Present: 6 County Commissioners, Susan Petersen, Latah County Clerk and Alan Solan of the Daily News.

059320A Issues discussed included: water/sewer service in the Pullman-Moscow Corridor, SR 270, E911-Whitcom, Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee, WSU/UI, economic development, Snake River/dams, Heritage & Scenic Byway, common roads, Idaho Highway 95 bypass of Moscow and the Martin Hall Juvenile Facility.

3:00 p.m. - Randy Baldree, WSU Cooperative Extension.

Present: Janet Schmidt.

059321 1. Both agents talked about the annual report distributed to the commissioners summarizing Cooperative Extension programs and activities during 2001. They emphasized the 6,648 volunteer hours donated to Cooperative Extension related activities.

Ms. Schmidt said through the "Know Your Government" program, 2.6 million hours statewide were pledged for community service and turned into the Governor. Of this amount, 3,000 hours were pledged in Whitman County.

Commissioner Finch said he would like to see more news releases about Cooperative Extension and 4-H in the Moscow-Pullman Daily News. Ms. Schmidt explained that several news releases are submitted to all the newspapers throughout the year, but unfortunately, they are not always published. With regards to reaching Pullman youths about 4-H, they try to stress areas that appeal to Pullman youths; i.e. Team Leadership program, computers, cats, dogs, bicycles, theater and performing arts.

On behalf of the entire Cooperative Extension office, Mr. Baldree expressed his appreciation to the Board for their continued support.

D059321A 2. Mr. Baldree also spoke about the immediate hiring freeze imposed on all state agencies by Governor Locke. It is not clear exactly how this relates to WSU, but Vice President V. Lane Rawlins has put an edict in place saying that the vice-presidents of each respective area of university affairs will make decisions about whether a position to be refunded is a high enough priority and about priorities for expenditures.

D059321B 3. When reviewing the January economic research data from the USDA Economic Research Service, Mr. Baldree said the numbers are not very impressive in terms of agriculture nationally. In looking at the gross receipts, the percentage coming in for LDP payments, emergency relief payments, CRP and all the other government programs that fall into this category, an enormous chunk of the whole profit agriculture takes in nationally is \$25-\$26 billion and was allocated to agriculture in 2001. He didn't know exactly how this will impact Whitman County given the fact this county is so heavily dependent on cereal grains. However, he was certain that there has to be something in the short run to improve marketability of soft white wheat, which is about everything Whitman County has to sell.

3:35 p.m. - Recess.

3:45 p.m. - Chad Connors, Juvenile Services.

059322 1. Mr. Connors presented an amendment for BECCA that funds the truancy, youth at risk, and child abuse services program. The original biennium contract stated that the county could bill on a fixed flat rate for petitions filed with the court. It has since become apparent that the formula is flawed from the standpoint that many administrators have fixed costs in their individual departments and the allotment per petition is not covering the actual costs that the counties were submitting. The proposed amendment changes the formula, allows the counties to bill for actual costs, and to back-bill for the differences. It does not change any county's allocation, but rather allows the counties to be reimbursed for all costs. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to sign the amended state contract for 02/01/02 thru 06/30/03 BECCA funds.

D059322A 2. According to Mr. Connors, the Law & Justice Planning Council will be submitting a resolution and their recommendations for membership on the council in the near future.

059323 3. Mr. Connors provided a Law & Justice legislative update and a copy of a letter he sent to Senator Hargrove concerning BECCA issues.

4:00 p.m. - Recess.

4:30 p.m. - Tim Myers and Tom Miller, Facilities Management.

059324 **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to sign the Harrison Electric contract for the lighting project.

4:45 p.m. - Adjournment.

D059324A Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **February 25, 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 **March 4, 2002**. The foregoing action made this 25th day of **February 2002**.

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

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners