

Minutes for April 15th, 2002

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059525 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for April 15, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

10:00 a.m. - Board Business.

D059525A 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jennifer Snead, Chris Anderson, Evan Ellis, Steve Tomson, Don Anderson and Kelli Shrope.

D059525B 2. Motion by Commissioner Finch to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wigen and carried.

059526 3. April 8, 2002 minutes approved.

059527-059530 4. Personnel board orders approved.

059531 5. Commissioner Finch made a motion that the BOCC is in agreement that they would like to transfer the ownership of the Whitman County Memorial Airport to the Port of Whitman County. Specific details as to the transfer are yet to be worked out. Paving of the road accessing the Airport will be handled as a separate issue. Commissioner Wigen seconded the motion and it carried. The Port of Whitman was notified.

059532 6. A letter was signed by the Board and sent to the Port of Whitman concerning improvements to the Airport Access Road.

059533 7. A letter of authorization was sent to the Port of Whitman regarding extension of the fiber optics line to the Fairgrounds for no more than \$7,000 including tax paid from the .08 economic development fund.

059534 8. A letter was signed by the Board to Carol A. Key, US Department of Transportation regarding the use of the \$80,000 AIP funds in 2003.

059535 9. A letter of interest was received from Dretha Phillips requesting appointment to the Water Conservancy Board. Motion by Commissioner Finch seconded by Commissioner Wigen and carried to appoint Dretha Phillips to a 3-year term on the Whitman County Water Conservancy Board.

059536 10. Motion by Commissioner Wigen seconded by Commissioner Finch and carried to sign a resolution designating the appointment of Lynne M. Gearhart of Palouse and Dretha Phillips of Pullman as members of the Water Conservancy Board. Copy forwarded to DOE.

RESOLUTION NO. 059536

BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE WHITMAN COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY BOARD.

WHEREAS, water conservancy boards were authorized by SHB-1272 in 1997; and,

WHEREAS, in 2001, the legislature authorized the increase in Water Conservancy Board membership from three to five; and,

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2002, the Whitman County Commissioners held a hearing and authorized the increase of membership on the Whitman County Water Conservancy Board; and,

WHEREAS, Whitman County has requested applications from potential candidates to serve on the local Water Conservancy Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Whitman County Commissioners hereby appoints:

Lynne M. Gearhart of Palouse, WA to a five-year term; and,

Dretha Phillips of Pullman, WA to a three-year term.

All terms begin immediately and end July 16 of the years 2005 and 2007 respectively. The Water Conservancy Board will function within the geographical borders of Whitman County, exercising administrative powers enumerated within Title 90 R.C.W. and the attached bylaws; and,

Dated this 15th day of April 2002.

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

059537 11. A letter recommending the appointment of Greg Jones to the position of Noxious Weed Control Board, District 3 was received from Peggy Wright. In addition, Mr. Jones submitted a petition signed by 10 individuals supporting his appointment. Motion by Commissioner Wigen seconded by Commissioner Finch and carried to appoint Greg Jones to the Noxious Weed Control Board in the District 3 position. A letter of appointment was forwarded to Mr. Jones and a letter of appreciation was forwarded to Mr. Scholz.

059538 12. Letter received from the Palouse Conservation Districts recommending withdrawal of the request for the commissioners to seek an amendment to the Agricultural Burning Delegation Order #02AQER-3570.

059539 Motion by Commissioner Finch seconded by Commissioner Wigen and carried to withdraw the DOE appeal application. Letter forwarded to the Pollution Control Hearings Board stating the same.

059540 13. A request for revisions to Information Services visa card received and approved upon motion by Commissioner Wigen seconded by Commissioner Finch and carried.

059541 14. A letter of appreciation was sent to the Washington State Dental Service for providing SmileMobile services to Whitman County youths who might otherwise might not had any dental care during the year.

059542 15. Motion by Commissioner Wigen seconded by Commissioner Finch and carried to approve a Juvenile Department credit card request retroactive to the date of the first purchase on the account.

059543 16. A letter was received from Carol Towne declining her appointment to the Classification Committee due to extreme workload conditions.

059544 17. Information pertaining to federal funding opportunities was received from the Department of Health, reviewed and forwarded accordingly.

059545 18. The April 2002 county population estimates were received from the Office of Financial Management.

059546 19. Notice of nominations being accepted for the "Engineer of the Year" was received from the County Road Administration Board and taken under advisement.

059547 20. Notice of a prioritization meeting for WRIA 34 was received from the Whitman Conservation District.

059548 21. A request for expression of interest for planning grants to site secure community transition facilities was received from DSHS. No action taken.

10:30 a.m. - GMA Compliance Decision.

Present: Jennifer Snead, Chris Anderson, Evan Ellis, Steve Tomson, Don Anderson, Kelli Shrope and Mike Berney.

059549 There being no objections raised, motion was made by Commissioner Wigen seconded by Commissioner Finch and carried to sign a resolution indicating Whitman County's compliance with the law with respect to critical areas.

RESOLUTION NO. 059549

BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, by enactment of R.C.W. 36.70A.130 the Washington State Legislature has mandated that as of September 1, 2002, County's, such as Whitman County, must review their Comprehensive Land Use Plan and development regulations to insure continued compliance with the Growth Management Act, R.C.W. 36.70A; and,

WHEREAS, while Whitman County is not an R.C.W. 36.70A.040 county, nor has the County opted into the Growth Management Act, we were none the less required to create and are required to maintain "critical area" ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, to comply with R.C.W. 36.70A.130 the Board of County Commissioners directed the Whitman County Planning Department and the civil department of the Prosecutor's Office to review the County's Comprehensive Plan and critical areas ordinances to wit: Whitman County Code Chapter 9.10 Wetlands, Chapter 9.24 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas, Chapter 9.40 Critical Aquifer Recharge Area Designation and Protection, Chapter 19.50 Flood Management Overlay District for Frequently Flooded Areas (Resolution 049103), and Title 17 Building and Construction for Geologically Hazardous Areas (Resolution 049103); and,

WHEREAS, the procedure for protecting and designing these critical areas is site specific and commences upon any application for change of land use from its present conforming use and from their enactment to the present date the designations and protections put into place have been and continue to comply with the Comprehensive Plan; and,

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Planning Department and the civil department of the Prosecutor's Office that there is no need for modification or amendment to the critical area ordinances designation or protection provisions and that such provisions are already interpreted in the context of and consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the County's duty under R.C.W. 36.70A.130, the Board has reviewed those ordinances required for critical areas under the R.C.W. 36.70A, for continued consistence with the Whitman County Comprehensive Plan and hereby RESOLVED:

The designation and protection aspects of Whitman County Code Chapter 9.10 Wetlands, Chapter 9.24 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area, Chapter 9.40 Critical Aquifer Recharge Area Designation and Protection, Chapter 19.50 Flood Management Overlay District for Frequently Flooded Areas (Resolution 049103), and Title 17 Building and Construction for Geologically Hazardous Areas (Resolution 049103), continue to be in compliance with

Whitman County's duty to protect these critical areas and remain consistent with the Whitman County Comprehensive Plan.

Dated this 15th day of April 2002.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

/s/ Ronald Shirley
Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Greg Partch, Chairman

ATTEST:

G. R. Finch, Commissioner

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Les Wigen, Commissioner

/s/ Mark Bordsen

Planning Department Director

10:35 a.m. - Mike Berney, WCCS Director.

Present: Jennifer Snead, Chris Anderson, Evan Ellis, Steve Tomson, Don Anderson, and Kelli Shrope.

D059549A Mr. Berney visited with the Board and requested authorization to refill three vacancies; an Office Assistant II, Chemical Dependency Youth Counselor, and Office Manager. The commissioners had no objections since all positions are budgeted.

059550-059552 Personnel board orders approved.

10:40 a.m. - Board Business Continued.

Present: Jennifer Snead, Chris Anderson, Evan Ellis, Steve Tomson, Don Anderson, Kelli Shrope, and Mike Berney.

D059552A 22. The Sheriff and the Board fielded questions from the media members in attendance regarding an altercation that took place on the 2nd floor of the Courthouse on Friday, April 12, 2002 with the County Auditor and Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. The investigation looks into an alleged 4th degree (simple assault), gross misdemeanor.

10:45 a.m. - Tim Myers, Director of Parks, Fair, Facilities and Risk Management.

Present: Jennifer Snead.

D059552A 1. Mr. Myers presented three easements to the Board providing access across the Whitman County Bill Chipman Palouse Trail. He noted that the Assessor has reviewed the legal descriptions. The easements begin at Airport Road West and allow access to private homes. Motion by Commissioner Finch seconded by Commissioner Wigen and carried to approve the easements as follows:

059553 J. Thomas Handy, Jr. and Deborah J. Handy
059554 J. Thomas Handy, Jr. and Deborah J. Handy
059555 Gerald L. Roberts and Nancy M. Roberts

D059555A 2. Mr. Myers provided a brief risk management update. The insurance company (Canfield & Associates) along with Pat Jeffries performed a walk-thru of county buildings the previous week. Areas of concern identified included: use of residential coffee

makers, portable space heaters, mug warmers and the sidewalks. The sidewalks are scheduled for repair this year through the Capital Improvement Program. The commissioners will address all areas of concern at their workshop.

D059555B 3. Mr. Myers reviewed the status of open risk management cases.

D059555C 4. Motion by Commissioner Finch to go into Executive Session with Mr. Myers for discussion of legal matters until 11:25 a.m. Seconded by Commissioner Wigen and carried.

11:25 a.m. - Return to Open Session/Recess.

11:30 a.m. - Bob Lothspeich, County Treasurer.

Present: Joe Reynolds, Jim Kaufman, Bev Welch, Kelli Shrope, Dane Dunford, Mike Werner, Mike Berney, Tom Miller, Randy Baldree, Doug Robinson, Tim Myers, Fran Martin, and Marlynn Markley.

The following individuals contacted the Treasurer regarding their absence from today's meeting: Peggy Wright and Chad Connors.

059556 The March 2002 ending financial report provided by Lothspeich.

March 2002 Cash Balance - \$1,059,715

March 2001 Cash Balance - \$1,122,853

March 2002 Revenue - \$1,258,877 - 14.64% of budget.

March 2001 Revenue - \$1,363,539 - 16.32% of budget.

March 2002 Expenditures \$1,910,392 - 21.09% of budget.

March 2001 Expenditures \$1,821,873 - 20.73% of budget.

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

1:30 p.m. - Board Business Continued.

059557 23. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered 133781-134093 for \$293,920.94 approved.

FUND #	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	\$145,489.69
102	Building & Development	318.90
103	Countywide Planning	41.80
104	Developmental Services	164.16
105	Mental Health	36,386.45
107	Chemical Dependency	3,153.99
110	County Roads	2,587.98
118	Inmate Welfare	1,729.12
123	Paths & Trails	489.71
127	Drug Enforcement	1,513.06
128	Crime Victims/Witnesses	75.00
129	HB 3900	18.01
132	Auditor's Document Preserv.	7,729.43
135	Prosecutor's Stop Grant	73.27
136	Electronic Monitoring	658.25
138	Federal Equitable Sharing	100.00
139	"911" Emergency Service	7,501.28
300	Capital Projects	76,343.69
400	Solid Waste	47.36
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	936.40
510	Photocopier Revolving	2,325.35
513	Communications Revolving	3,893.37

1:35 p.m. - Randy Baldree and Janet Schmidt, Cooperative Extension.

059558 1. Ms. Schmidt distributed a pictorial brochure highlighting numerous 4-H programs conducted the previous year.

059559 2. A flyer promoting the June 8th Fishing Kids event also received from the Agent. Cooperative Extension is targeting 360-400 youths for this event.

D059559A 3. Ms. Schmidt talked about:
* Shooting sports training conducted in Okanogan;
* Daily News article about the Colfax Grange/CETC/4-H partnership; and,
* Small business development center internet counseling program.

D059559B 4. Mr. Baldree spoke about:
* 4 crop seminars conducted from January-April;
* 3 cattle seminars, 3 pork production seminars, and 1 sheep field day;
* Stock Sales Association improvements planned at the Fairgrounds;
* Working with marketing clubs;
* 4 Northwest crops projects;
* Continued close working relationship with the Conservation Districts;
* Establishment of a Farm Service Agency Committee to assist with obtaining additional funds for livestock water quality issues;
* Crop Improvement Association reorganization and May 22nd Western Whitman County Field Day tour;
* Establishment of direct marketing from farm to consumer group;
* Junior livestock show in Spokane;
* Risk management program for beef cattle producers May 17; and
* Coordinating Committee (Natural Resources Advisory Committee) and the Attorney General opinion about livestock water right issues.

D059559C 5. The Chairman mentioned that today the Board signed a letter to the Port authorizing extension of the fiber optics line to the Fairgrounds.

2:05 p.m. - Kelli Shrope and Diana Dawson, Human Resources.

059560 Ms. Dawson gave an overview of the Labor & Industries Retrospective Rating Pool meeting she attended the previous week. Areas of importance noted:

* Whitman County is the first county in the state to begin the required ergonomics training;
* Merit rated retro distribution to remain in the Pool's reserve fund;
* Whitman County rated 2nd highest in the state for L&I claims for the period 04/01/01 thru 03/31/02; and,
* L&I's base rates will be increasing anywhere from 5%-20%.

Ms. Shrope will report on Whitman County's L&I performance history at the next EAT Committee meeting.

2:35 p.m. - Bob Lothspeich, County Treasurer.

059561 Mr. Lothspeich explained that Endicott Park & Recreation District #7 is requesting a loan from the county until they begin collecting their recently passed levy funds. He has also verified the District's debt limitations and they are well within the guidelines. Motion by Commissioner Wigen seconded by Commissioner Finch and carried to pass a resolution authorizing a \$20,000 loan to Endicott Park & Recreation District #7.

RESOLUTION NO.059561
of
The Board of County Commissioners
For Whitman County, State of Washington

WHEREAS, the Board of Whitman County Commissioners met in regular session on the 15th day of April, 2002; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of the Whitman County Park and Recreation District #7 is authorized by R.C.W. 36.69.350 and has requested an interfund loan to cover their operating expenses for the year 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the Whitman County Park and Recreation District #7 has requested at the polls and has been granted by the voters a tax levy to be collected in 2003 that is sufficient to cover both their operating costs for 2002 and the principle and interest of the interfund loan requested herein; and

WHEREAS, this request complies with R.C.W.'s 39.69.010; 39.69.020; 39.69.030; and 39.36.020 regarding loan agreements and debt limitations; and

WHEREAS, the interfund loan will be repaid in two equal payments, one in April, 2003 and one in November 2003 at an interest rate equal to that which the Whitman County Treasurer is receiving on investments at the time of repayment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS ORDERED that an interfund loan of \$20,000.00 be loaned to Whitman County's Endicott Park and Recreation District # 7 from the Whitman County Current Expense Fund, to be repaid as stated.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 15th DAY OF APRIL 2002.

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

2:40 p.m. - Recess.

3:00 p.m. - Jeff Bear, Phones Plus.

Present: Bev Welch, Dane Dunford, Dan Brown, Travis Anderson and Ray Turner.

D059561A The Chairman stated some changes need to be made to the county's telephone system due to the death of the County Administrator who previously handled much of this.

Dane Dunford said the current telephone system was purchased from Fisher Telecommunications who subsequently sold it to Phones Plus. The system involves multiple functions.

Internal System - Phones Plus
SCAN System - WA State Long Distance
Verizon - Long Distance Carrier
Qwest - Local Provider
Elinor Huber - Switchboard/Phone bills/JV's/Schedule Service/Routes some
equipment through Phones Plus for repair/replacement/voice
- mail/messaging problems
Judy McMurray - Is Elinor's Back Up
Dick Brown - Was Elinor's Technical Back Up
Evon Jones - Assisted with billing problems

Mr. Dunford believed someone from Information Services (IS) would be a good backup for Elinor for technical issues.

Ms. Welch agreed it would be a good idea to leave Elinor with the switchboard and billings and transfer the technical issues to IS for handling.

Mr. Dunford commented if IS takes on this responsibility it would be good for Jeff Bear to do a walk-thru of the system with the appropriate staff member(s).

Jeff Bear said the county has a few options:

- * Training available for in-house staff;
- * Getting IS involved;
- * New programs that allow moves/adds/changes internally for the entire system by in-house staff for approximately \$200;
- * Phones Plus could work with IS to do a complete risk assessment of the system; and,
- * County could Provide Phones Plus with all provider information to assist in correcting problems.

Chairman Partch said with the many system changes, there are probably lines that are no longer necessary. Dane Dunford concurred and said there is a hodgepodge of lines. This is an old structure and there has been a turn over in equipment. The lines to the Island Street and Public Service Buildings have historically had problems.

Mr. Dunford thought IS was the perfect location for the technical side of the system. For Bev's sake, he wants to be careful that Elinor retain the billing end, otherwise they may end up taking an employee away from Bev to handle the phone system. He thought there is a way to make a clear division between responsibilities, otherwise IS will have to hire another person. Mr. Dunford suggested Elinor and IS work out the split in responsibilities and the Board concurred. Once the split is delineated, IS will contact Mr. Bear.

3:30 p.m. - Incident Team.

Present: Tim Myers, Joe Reynolds, Bob Reynolds, Fran Martin, Kelli Shrope, Dane Dunford, Bob Lothspeich, Randy Baldree, Doug Robinson, Steve Tomson, Don Anderson, Marlynn Markley, Mike Berney, Jim Kaufman, Ron Shirley and Alan Solan.

059562 The Chairman stated the Incident Team met today and thought there were some issues that need to be addressed by the elected and appointed officials concerning the April 12th incident. The consensus was to protect all Whitman County employees. The outcome of this meeting resulted in a memo to all departments regarding the process for employees delivering claims and transacting other business in the Auditor's office. The Assessor agreed to contact the Auditor about his immediate future working plans.

4:00 p.m. - Ray Turner, Pullman.

Present: Peggy Harrington and Rick Dober.

D059562A The residents visited with the Board about zoning, permits, water, health, legal descriptions, easements, and access road related issues they are experiencing with their neighbor. The commissioners agreed to have a workshop with all pertinent staff concerning the complaint after which they will contact the residents.

4:30 p.m. - Recess.

D059562B THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for April 16, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

10:00 a.m. - Reconvene/BOCC Workshop.

Present: Kelli Shrope.

D059562C Items discussed included insurance company concerns and the County Administrator position. No action taken.

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

3:30 p.m. - Board of Health.

Present: Dr. Moody, Fran Martin and John Skyles.

Chairman Partch is attending another meeting.

D059562D 1. Dr. Moody briefed the commissioners on the Meningococcal Meningitis case at WSU and the excellent job performed by staff.

059563 2. Dr. Moody gave the Board the latest Department of Health News Brief newsletter for their review.

D059563A 3. John Skyles gave an update on the Endicott and Thornton solid waste problems.

D059563B 4. Ms. Martin noted 78 screenings were handled through the SmileMobile providing multiple restorative works for several youths. The Community Action Center is sponsoring the "Community of Hope" event to see what can be done about dental care in the county. Only two of twelve dentists still accept medical coupons in Whitman County. They are working on getting assistance for people on Medicaid. The SmileMobile helps a lot, but it is not enough.

D059563C 5. The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) will be conducting a survey of all health care providers in Whitman County. This survey is intended to determine (besides the northern portion of the county) if Whitman County is an underserved county and be eligible for more rural health statuses. Surveys will be sent to primary care providers to see if there is a need for more designations of rural health. The Health Department will receive the results of the survey.

D059563D 6. The bioterrorism meeting is scheduled for the April 25th.

D059563E 7. The Department of Health has grant money available through Homeland Security. Each county below 50,000 residents will receive \$25,000 to be used for planning. In addition, counties will receive funding for a Health Alert Network. Spokane County is the lead agency for the south region consisting of Whitman, Garfield, Columbia, Asotin and Adams.

D059563F 8. Ms. Martin provided a personnel update on the nursing staff, registered dietician, and environmental technician.

059564 9. Ms. Martin talked about the Department's proposed amended billing procedure with the use of Valley Empire Collection. This item will be acted on at the May 21st Board of Health meeting.

4:15 p.m. - Adjournment.

D059564A Commissioner Finch moved to adjourn the April 15 and 16, 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 April 22, 2002. The foregoing action made this 16th day of April 2002.

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

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

