

Minutes for April 22nd, 2002

Disclaimer: This is only a web copy of the Whitman County Commissioners' Monday Meeting Minutes. Official minutes may be obtained by contacting the Whitman County Commissioners office at (509)-397-6200

059565 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **April 22, 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.

D059565A 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Susan Fagan, Fritz Hughes, Cheryl Morgan, Sig Jorstad, Jim DeVleming, Chris Anderson, and Gary Kopf.

D059565B 2. Motion by Commissioner Finch to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

059566 3. April 15, 2002 minutes approved.

059567-059575 4. Personnel board orders approved.

059576 5. Motion by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to sign the Department of the Army cooperative agreement for law enforcement services.

10:15 a.m. - Jennifer Snead.

059577 6. Prosecutor Kaufman explained the proposed proclamation has been brought before the Board for the past 5-10 years. It states the Board's concern and support for the Whitman County Law & Justice Council. With crime up in Whitman County, the proclamation reflects support for crime victims and puts them on an even footing with criminal defense. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to sign the 2002 Victims' Rights proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, approximately one violent crime is committed in America about every 16 seconds; and,

WHEREAS, approximately every thirty minutes another person dies in the United States as a result of drunk driving; and,

WHEREAS, one in every two hundred babies born in the United States will die as a result of an alcohol-related crash; and,

WHEREAS, methamphetamine use, manufacture and delivery is on the rise on the Palouse like in many other parts of our country, increasing all crime over the last two or three years significantly and especially increasing

violent crime as its toll with little chance of curbing methamphetamine use and its resulting crime by treatment of offenders; and,

WHEREAS, many million Americans and their families and friends, who are victimized by crime each year, need and deserve quality programs and services to help them recover from the devastating effects of crime; and,

WHEREAS, as a nation devoted to liberty and justice for all, America must plant the seeds of justice to protect and restore crime victims' rights and to assure that all branches of government at all levels are cognizant and supportive of victim's rights; and,

WHEREAS, all citizens of Whitman County and all elected officials in all three branches of county government must join together with victim service programs and criminal justice officials to make our homes and communities better and safer places to live; and to restore the increasing loss of confidence by the victims and the public in our criminal justice system and particularly the extreme loss of confidence where violent criminals with criminal histories are released with few if any conditions, both pre-trial and post-trial in many jurisdictions, against the good of society and lessening the safety of many communities and the respect for our laws, including our county; and,

WHEREAS, this board encourages its partnership with the Whitman County Law and Justice Council and urges its citizens, businesspersons, farmers, teachers, law enforcement, municipalities, corrections, prosecutors, courts, defendants and their lawyers to do likewise, submitting to the council, appropriate concerns and problems for resolution, where deemed appropriate, with an ever-present and primary focus on the rights of crime victims; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Whitman County Commissioners on behalf of the citizens of Whitman County, Washington, reaffirm our strong and enduring commitment to helping victims of crime and supporting victim service programs during 2002 Crime Victim's Week and throughout the year, specifically calling upon our friends in the executive and judicial branches of Whitman County to do likewise; and,

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Whitman County Board of Commissioners designate the period of April 22-28, 2002 as:

Whitman County Victims' Rights Week

Done this 22nd day of April 2002.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ James H. Kaufman
Whitman County
Prosecuting Attorney

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

059578 7. Community Development Block Grant contract amendment #01-64021-038 for Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction was signed by the Chairman after a motion by **motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

059579 8. A request for 3.32 hours of leave without pay was approved for a member of the Treasurer's staff.

059580 9. The Board sent all departments a letter stating Tim Myers was selected as Acting Risk Manager.

059581 10. A memo was received from Human Resources clarifying any misunderstandings that Whitman County does not provide a physical fitness benefit.

059582 11. A letter was sent to the Public Works Director regarding the Solid Waste loan for the county lighting project.

059583 12. A letter of support for the Walla Walla Community College Enology grant application signed by the Board.

059584 13. A letter was forwarded to Colfax Mayor Norma Becker requesting financial assistance for improvements to the shared parking lot.

059585 14. An executed copy of WSDOT local agency agreement supplement #1 for the Darden Bridge.

The Chairman opened the floor to questions/comments.

D059585A 15. Cheryl Morgan thanked the commissioners for providing the reduced tipping fee during the spring clean up.

D059585B 16. Fritz Hughes commented on the WSU breakfast meeting this morning and the feeling of everyone wanting to work together.

D059585C 17. Larry Thoene of Pullman voiced his concern about the SR 270 project between Moscow and Pullman. According to Mr. Thoene, it will remove 250 acres of farmland, his home, and another home he rents. This seemed to be a preposterous proposal. It calls for a 4 lane divided highway on each end of a 5-mile high-speed thoroughfare. He wasn't aware of any other area in the state with a 5-mile high-speed stretch of highway. He was concerned about the high-speeds on such a short section of highway. The \$25 million project does not lend itself to commercial use and will limit access to farmland.

10:30 a.m. - Jim DeVleming, Pullman Chamber of Commerce.

Present: Susan Fagan, Fritz Hughes, Cheryl Morgan, Sig Jorstad, Chris Anderson, Gary Kopf, Dane Dunford, Mark Storey, Evan Ellis, Jean Wardwell, and Sara Sue Cochran.

059586 Jim DeVleming, Chair of the Economic Development Subcommittee for the Pullman Chamber of Commerce, spoke about the Whitman County Comprehensive Plan. The Chamber looked at simple, effective ways they thought would help economic development occur in Whitman County. The proposal is to omit paragraph 1B of Section 19.10.060 within the Whitman County Zoning Ordinance dealing with the rural residential use and 3-year moratorium on land. By removing this paragraph it would allow for planned residential growth as well as economic development in a much better fashion. The Chamber feels the 3-year moratorium is a definite impediment to good planned development.

Fritz Hughes said the three entities of the Chamber, Ag Business, Economic Development and Governmental Affairs, looked at the Whitman County Comprehensive Plan and this is one area that surfaced as a first step. The Chamber is interested in seeing this process progress pointing out Whitman County loses residents to Latah County because of this restriction.

10:35 a.m. - Alan Solan.

In response to Commissioner Wigen's inquiry, Mr. DeVleming said the Chamber studied the Plan quite a bit. There are a number of areas they feel could be changed to make it a more workable document, but most of the other ideas are much more involved. This particular change seemed fairly simple to accomplish.

Commissioner Finch said rural residential is the next item for the Planning Commission to consider and he hoped this section would be completed by the end of the year.

Susan Fagan said the Chamber committees have extensively and thoroughly evaluated the Plan and above all else, they feel economic development is tied to quality of life. They also realize without economic development there are less and less opportunities for people. Instead of encouraging opportunities for an increased tax base, the county is discouraging opportunities. Ms. Fagan thought the Chamber representatives would like to come back at a later date to provide other suggestions.

Chairman Partch agreed Whitman County could have other uses of land without infringing upon agriculture.

Commissioner Finch said people need to understand if we are going to cure our long-term economic ills in Whitman County, we cannot tax our way out of it, we are going to have to grow out of it by removing the impediments.

Commissioner Wigen voiced his appreciation of the Planning Commission and staff. He also wants good planned growth and thought we could all benefit by working together.

The Chairman thanked the Chamber and advised them their suggestion would be forwarded to the Planning Commission.

10:45 a.m. - Recess.

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

Present: Susan Fagan, Fritz Hughes, Cheryl Morgan, Sig Jorstad, Chris Anderson, Gary Kopf, Jim DeVleming, Mark Storey, Evan Ellis, Jean Wardwell, Alan Solan, Sara Sue Cochran, Jeff Motley, Sig Jorstad, Ron Wachter, Larry Tony, Janice Miller, Mr. Miller, and Mark Bordsen.

Action Items:

059587 1. Mr. Bordsen formally transmitted a proposed amendment to Zoning Ordinance adding concrete pre-mix plants associated with active rock mining and crushing operation to the conditional uses allowed in the Pullman-Moscow Corridor District. The commissioners' options at this time are:

1. Set a date for a decision if no changes are to be made to the recommendations.
2. Set a date to hold their own hearing if they want to make changes to the recommendations or if more input is needed.
3. Allow further comments today and then set a date for a decision or hearing.

Commissioner Wigen said he would like to hear from those present. Commissioner Finch said having read the entire document, he was comfortable in making a decision and/or allowing those present to speak on the issue.

The meeting was opened to comments from those in attendance.

Janice Miller of Pullman thought people should have much more input prior to the decision. The issue was previously rejected previously and still is just as inappropriate now as it ever was. It will be unsightly and ruinous as one of the approaches to the city. This too could have something to do with economic development and economic reaction on the part of people both in town and out of town thinking of Pullman and its environs as a good place to come and do business.

059588 Written comments were received from Cheryl Morgan and Dan and Tina Welter. The residents requested the amendment be denied in order to safeguard life, health and property, and to promote the public welfare of all citizens of this community as granted to them under the terms of the Washington State Constitution.

059589 A second set of written comments were received from Dan and Tina Welter of Pullman.

Larry Thoene spoke in favor of the amendment. He is the closest residing landowner to the asphalt plant and does not find it offensive. He thought

the people would be more aghast at the large truck and trailers hauling sand and gravel down Main Street in Pullman to access the plant. Whereas, they will only have access to one town instead of two as opposed to the other way. He personally didn't believe the cement trucks traveling through Pullman do that much for the city.

Fritz Hughes said the proposed amendment has gone through the appropriate process and he thought they should listen carefully to the Planning Commission who studied this. There has been much opportunity for public input as well as input from the Planning Commission. He would like to see the recommendation from the Planning Commission accepted by the Board.

Gary Kopf of Colfax said he has attended nearly all the Planning Commission meetings on the issue. He thought it was interesting to see comments raised at this stage of the proposal that were not raised at the Planning Commission hearings that were highly publicized. The Commission spent over 6 months on the amendment and has addressed every aspect including transportation, environmental, public health and safety and he supports the amendment.

Sig Jorstad said he has lived in the Corridor for 60+ years and concurs with Dan Boone's comments that the place for pre-mix plants is in the Corridor.

Motion by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to make a decision on proposed amendment at their regular meeting of April 29 at 11:00 a.m.

059590 **2. Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** that the resolution to close the Black Road for replacement of the Belmont Bridge from May 7-8, 2002 be signed as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 059590

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Whitman County, Washington in the matter of closing a certain county road/bridge pursuant to R.C.W. 47.48.010;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the following road/bridge will be closed to vehicular traffic: County Road No. 2300, the Black Road at milepost 4.08, beginning May 7, 2002 until completion of the Belmont Bridge, which is estimated to be May 8, 2002.

ADOPTED this 22nd 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

059591 3. Motion by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to publish the public notice to close the Black Road for replacement of the Belmont Bridge.

Solid Waste Division:

D059591A 4. Mr. Dunford acknowledged that today is *Earth Day* and is in conjunction with Whitman County's spring clean up that concludes April 27th.

Maintenance Division:

D059591B 5. The maintenance crews will perform some crack sealing work next week and if the weather permits asphalt repair work will also be done.

D059591C 6. Chairman Partch asked the Director if Public Works could assist with repairs to the county parking lots this year. Mr. Dunford said he would see if the repairs could be worked into the schedule with the equipment they have rented for one month between two of the districts.

11:30 a.m. - Tim Myers, Parks, Fair, Facilities and Risk Management.

Present: Annie Pillers, Susan Fagan, Barb Mays, Fran Martin, and Sarita Marie.

As a requirement of the funding authorization, Mr. Myers said they are present today to give a report on the community outreach programs held in the different communities.

059592 Annie Pillers reported on the outreach programs in Palouse that involved a Hip Hop/Funk Dance, cooking, and computer application classes.

059593 Barb Mays reported on the outreach programs in Lacrosse that involved beginning computers, beginning pottery and gardening classes.

D059593A Sarita Marie reported on the outreach programs in Colton and Uniontown that involved beginning computers, arts/crafts, and cooking, and car care classes.

Mr. Myers commented the programs would not have been as successful without the individuals selected by the Offerings Committee to develop and organize the classes. The participants appreciated the fact the classes were held in their communities and some of the classes offered have or may continue. Mr. Myers indicated the report would also be provided to the CETC Board.

11:50 a.m. - Board Business Continued.

D059593B 18. The Board tabled all claims to April 23rd.

11:55 a.m. - Recess.

D059593C THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **April 23, 2002** at **9:50 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

9:50 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued.

059594 19. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **134124-134155** and **134158-134270** for **\$320,320.46** approved.

| FUND # | FUND NAME | AMOUNT | AMOUNT | AMOUNT |
|--------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 001 | Current Expense | \$33,144.10 | \$ 9,312.20 | \$ 6,364.26 |
| 102 | Building & Development | 1,000.00 | 200.00 | 43.75 |
| 103 | Countywide Planning | | 1,000.00 | 263.09 |
| 104 | Developmental Services | | | 31,596.42 |
| 105 | Mental Health | 6,325.20 | 250.00 | 345.62 |
| 107 | Chemical Dependency | 2,049.60 | | 25,021.64 |
| 110 | County Roads | 15,443.00 | 4,797.20 | 28,893.03 |
| 118 | Inmate Welfare | | | 9.28 |
| 119 | Emergency Services | | | 221.92 |
| 123 | Paths & Trails | | | 135.35 |
| 128 | Crime Victims/Witnesses | | | 9.91 |
| 400 | Solid Waste | 1,750.00 | | 74,277.93 |
| 410 | Solid Waste Reserve | | | 820.00 |
| 501 | Equipment Rental & Revolving | 3,783.00 | 1,197.20 | 71,797.30 |
| 521 | Family Svc. Ctr. Revolving | | | 6.84 |
| 658 | Rural Library | 262.62 | | |

059595 Questionable claims reviewed and approved for the Sheriff's Office and Public Health.

10:00 a.m. - BOCC Workshop.

Present: Dane Dunford, Bob Anderson, Mark Bordsen, and John Skyles.

059596 Items discussed included zoning, County Administrator, Commissioners' Choice award, claims, vehicle licensing, Colfax' response regarding parking lot repairs, WSAC summer conference, a letter from Sam Reed, and the Island Street building. No action taken.

11:00 a.m. - BOCC Workshop Continued.

Present: Gary Young, John Clarke, Jr., Dave Splaine, Bill Kaufmann.

059597 The item discussed was straw board plants in Whitman County. No action taken.

12:00 p.m. - Adjournment.

D059597A Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **April 22** and **23, 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 29, 2002**. The foregoing action made this **23rd** 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