

Minutes for May 2, 2005

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063910 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **May 2, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, G.R. "Jerry" Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

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

Present: Sharron Cunningham and Kelli Campbell.

063911 1. Items discussed included the budget, press statement, Native Plant proclamation and the .08 recommendations. No action taken.

10:00 a.m. - Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jim Hukak, Ken Jacobs, Bob Lothspeich, Tammy Lewis and 3 visitors.

D063911A 2. Motion by Commissioner Finch to approve the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

063912 3. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **176105-176203** for **\$219,930.51** approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	32,916.47
102	Building & Development	100.79
110	County Roads	3,604.19
113	Ergonomics	11,625.10
117	Boating Safety	225.00
118	Inmate Welfare	6.46
119	Emergency Services	3,986.76
127	Drug Enforcement	108.35
129	House Bill 3900	146.32
136	Electronic Monitoring	356.50
320	Cap. Project/Out. Sources (Bond)	270.35
400	Solid Waste	2,828.74
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	146,956.75
510	Photocopier Revolving	11.01
511	Unemployment Insurance	763.23
513	Communications Revolving	9.67
660	Whitcom-General-000	1,364.01
660	Whitcom-Grant Funding-001	160.00

BOCC MINUTES-05/02/05

690	Clearing & Suspense	14,490.81
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063913 4. May 2, 2005 minutes approved.

063914-063918 5. Personnel board orders approved.

063919 6. Jim Hudak, Chair of the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee (BRATC) explained the Committee's recommendations totaling a \$112,500 grant award from .08 funds:

- Town of Rosalia - \$67,500 for the purchase of water rights and,
- Garfield Public Development Authority - \$35,000 for the purchase of the Garfield Restaurant.
- An application by the City of St. John was found not to meet the guiding principles.
- The committee also requested the non-allocated funds be carried over to 2006.

The commissioners expressed their appreciation to the Committee member for their hard work.

063920 Chairman Partch read a letter from Archie Neal clarifying an article in the Gazette about the Garfield Public Development Authority project.

10:15 a.m. - Bob Reynolds.

063920A Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the recommendations as submitted by the Blue Ribbon Task Advisory Committee.

Rosalia Mayor Ken Jacobs, on behalf of the town and council, thanked the commissioners for sharing these funds and the BRATC for their work and support. Mayor Jacobs said the town would do its best to attract business.

Commissioner Finch was impressed with the attitude of the small communities to help themselves rather than expecting someone else to do the work for them.

063921 7. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to sign the 2005-06 legal printing agreement. The required bond was received.

063922 8. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to publish a notice canceling the May 23rd commissioners' meeting.

063923 9. An executed copy of the Business Associate agreement with the LEOFF I Disability Board was received.

BOCC MINUTES-05/02/05

063924 10. Commissioner Finch indicated we are moving ahead with the refinancing of the Martin Hall bond issue for 5.9133% equaling a saving of \$206,077.99 for the entire consortium meeting the minimum 5% savings requirement. Whitman County's savings is an estimated \$20,000. Asotin County opted not to participate in the refinance. He noted the payoff date of December 1, 2016 remains the same. Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to sign the limited tax general obligation bond for Martin Hall.

063925 11. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to sign Washington State Military Department Division of Emergency Management contract #E05-210 in the amount of \$348,562 as presented.

063926 12. A response to an email inquiry regarding the status of the Pullman-Moscow Corridor was forwarded to Gary Kopf.

063927 13. A response to an email inquiry from John Jensen, University of Idaho, was returned concerning light rail.

063928 14. The commissioners signed a letter of appreciation to the Public Health staff for their dedication to preserving, improving and educating our county's health.

063929 15. A response to the commissioners' letter of February 2nd was received from the City of Pullman declining the county's offer for sales tax sharing.

063930 16. A copy of a letter sent to the Teamster local #690 was received from the county's negotiator regarding the reorganization of the Parks, Fair and Facilities Management Departments.

063931 17. The commissioners chose not to sign a proclamation pertaining to Native Plant Appreciation Week.

D063931A 18. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

10:45 a.m. - Bob Reynolds, Palouse Empire Fair Manager.

Present: Tammy Lewis, Adam Roberts and Kris Bunch.

063932 Bob Reynolds stated each year the Fair creates an exhibitor's handbook. Using the small works roster he obtained quotes for the 2005 handbook. For the past 2 years, the Fair has owned the copyrights for the handbook that is now initially printed in the Fair office. The Fair only requires the successful bidder to format the handbook for publishing. The handbook is also on the county's website and because of that production of hard copies has been reduced from 3,500 to 2,500. Mr. Reynolds recommending

BOCC MINUTES-05/02/05

awarding the quote to Cougar Graphics for \$1.31 per unit plus tax for a grand total of \$3,523.90.

Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to award the 2005 exhibitors' handbook contract to Cougar Graphics for a total of \$3,523.90 as presented.

10:50 a.m. - Adam Roberts and Kris Bunch, Information Services.

Present: Tammy Lewis.

063933 1. Adam Roberts explained an asset acquisition request for 3 licenses for Front Page software to allow the Fair and Parks to edit their web pages on line. There is also a new ticketing system for the Parks Department to key their tickets into an on-line database allowing them to keep track of all tickets.

Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize this expenditure from asset acquisition for a total of \$229.02 for 3 software licenses.

063934 2. Kris Bunch said the department is moving forward with providing information for replacing the mainframe financial system. Staff has been working on an RFP for this purpose and will call for RFP's on May 31st seeking a vendor that will provide a best fit solution for Whitman County. Mr. Bunch distributed copies of the new computer system timeline for 2005. This way we'll know exactly what we want/need should the mainframe fail or we acquire enough funding for the purchase.

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

Present: Tammy Lewis.

Action Items:

D063934A 1. The Chairman convened the hearing for the proposed Samuel Wilks Road vacation. At the request of Public Works, Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to continue the hearing to May 9th at 11 a.m.

063935 2. Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize a notice of call for bids for the White Elephant Bridge project (in anticipation of the required state paperwork).

063936 3. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize a notice of call for bids for the Judson Bridge project (in anticipation of the required state paperwork).

Solid Waste Division:

BOCC MINUTES-05/02/05

D063936A 4. Mr. Dunford mentioned tire amnesty day held over the past weekend and the fact that everyone seemed very appreciative of the program. A report is forthcoming.

Engineering Division:

D063936B 5. The contractor has applied most of the final top gravel on Palouse Cove Road and they still anticipate paving the road next week.

Maintenance Division:

D063936C 6. Crack sealing began in District 1 today and will continue during the month of May in Districts 1 and 3.

D063936D 7. Next week District 3 will begin repair work on the last 1,000 feet on the Green Hollow Road before reaching the Manning Road intersection to correct shoulder slough. Depending on District 3's workload, completion of these repairs could be delayed until after the seal coating season. This work will slow traffic somewhat during the day but the project will be well signed and well lit for night travel.

11:15 a.m. - Recess.

1:00 p.m. - Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.

Present: Fran Martin (1:00 p.m.), Maribeth Becker (1:30 p.m.)

D063936E 19. Items discussed included grant recovery. No action taken.

D063936F 20. Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to go into executive session with the above individual until 1:45 p.m. for personnel matters.

1:45 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Recess.

D063936G THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **May 3, 2005** at **9:15 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, G.R. "Jerry" Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

9:15 a.m. - Reconvened/Special 2005 Whitman County Budget Meeting.

063937 Present: Bev Welch, Eunice Coker, Janet Schmidt, Pete Martin, Mike Werner, Doug Robinson, Fran Martin, Kelli Campbell, Kim Kopf, Tim Myers, Denis Tracy, Dane Dunford, Brett Myers, Bob Lothspeich, Peggy Wright, Marlynn Markley, Bob Reynolds, Ron Rockness, Sonya Miller, Ron McMurray, Heather Cochran, Jim Hawkes, Tammy Lewis, Evan Ellis, Glenn Vaagan and Megan Doyle.

BOCC MINUTES-05/02/05

063938 Chairman Partch said this is a meeting they hoped they would not have to participate in but it has come to the point that they must make some budgetary adjustments. He continued by outlining the timeframe as to how this issue came about dating back to the 2004 budget process, an employee survey for suggestions, the EAT Committee's involvement and a proposal for dealing with the budgetary constraints, the need for a \$271,348 budget reduction and the July 1, 2005 implementation date.

063939 The proposal (distributed) has brought the county to the point of 6-1/4 layoffs requiring a two-month notice to meet the July 1, 2005 deadline. He emphasized this is an on-going process for the 2006 fiscal year.

At this point the Chairman read a press release (distributed). He went on to talk about some of the reasons the county is in this position including, but not limited to declining cash reserves, affects of I-601, I-695 and I-747, retro insurance assessments, declining interest rates, sales tax exemptions enacted by the legislature, rising energy costs, increased health insurance, labor contracts and classification system job family adjustments.

This meeting was partially delayed until after the legislative session hoping the state would come through for under-funded counties, but that did not occur. That leaves the county with its same basic taxing problem. With the suggestion of the EAT Committee and as a top priority, the county will look at enhancing revenues and will present their case to the public in the fall. The commissioners will not unilaterally pass a tax on the people, but will work with the EAT Committee to allow a revenue tax to be placed on the ballot for continuation of county functions.

Commissioner Finch said they have worked very hard on this issue. He hoped to continue to deliver all services to the public, but they will probably not be able to continue doing business as they have in the past.

Commissioner Wigen said they have had to make some tough decisions over the past 4 years and Dick Brown's prediction in 2000 that expenditures would exceed revenues in 2005 has come to fruition. He expressed his appreciation to the department heads and elected officials.

Chairman Partch said changes have been made over the past 3 years to help reduce costs, i.e. shortened Courthouse hours in some departments to offset reduced staff and overtime, downsizing through attrition and increased costs for services. Unfortunately, unfunded mandates continually forced on the county leave them no choice.

The Chairman opened the meeting to questions/comments from the audience. Areas addressed involved: elimination of departments, shifting responsibilities, contracting out services, commissioners' car allowance, bottom-line budgeting, mid-year adjustments rather than through the 2005

BOCC MINUTES-05/02/05

budget process, voted/non-voted taxes, delayed revenues, departments unable to reduce budgets by the full amount, reduced services, Sheriff's Office reduction concerns, dollar amount reductions, reduced budget areas left up to individual department heads, revenue losses to other entities, the county's growth plan, job family adjustments and reduced sales due to CRP acres.

The date of May 31st has been set for a budget amendment to confirm all budget adjustments.

10:30 a.m. - Recess.

10:45 a.m. - Board Business Continued.

Present: Mike Werner, Tim Myers, Eunice Coker, Sharron Cunningham, Kelli Campbell and Tammy Lewis.

063940 **21.** The Chairman read a proposed resolution reorganizing the Fair, Fairgrounds, Facilities Management, Parks and Developmental Services departments. Mr. Werner commented the language throughout the state is County Coordinator for Developmental Services and not Director. Commissioner Finch **moved** and Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion to approve the resolution with the title change to County Coordinator. Motion **carried**.

RESOLUTION NO. 063940

OF

**THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR WHITMAN COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Whitman County, State of Washington, met in regular session on Monday, May 3, 2005; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Whitman County, State of Washington, recognizes the need to reorganize certain departments to improve the workings of county government; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners deems it necessary to create a Director of Fair/Fairgrounds and Facilities Management. The Director of Fair/Fairgrounds and Facilities Management will be the under direct supervision of the Board of County Commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners also deems it necessary to create a Director of Parks/County Coordinator for Developmental Services. The Director of Parks/County Coordinator for Developmental Services will be under the direct supervision of the Board of County Commissioners.

BOCC MINUTES-05/02/05

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that a Director of Fair/Fairgrounds and Facilities Management and Director of Parks and Developmental Services are hereby created.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of May 2005.

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

063941 **22.** Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to sign a resolution establishing a Fair/Fairgrounds fund.

RESOLUTION NO. 063941
OF
THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR WHITMAN COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Whitman County, State of Washington, met in regular session on Monday, May 3, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Whitman County, State of Washington, recognizes the need to create a Current Expense fund for Fair/Fairgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners believes that a separate fund is the proper procedure to account for these expenditures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that a Fair/Fairgrounds Fund numbered 001.300.000 is created.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of May 2005.

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

Mr. Werner hoped the county never loses sight of the advantages that have benefited the Fair and Parks by mutual support of these two departments. The merged operation have shown tremendous savings to the county and brought it to a point of possibly being the best small county fair in the state. He encouraged the commissioners as they separate these budget functions to continue sharing personnel and equipment.

11:00 a.m. - Recess.

D063941A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Port of Whitman County office, Colfax, Washington for **May 5, 2005** at **2:00 p.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, G.R. "Jerry" Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners attended.

2:00 p.m. - Reconvene/Board Business/BOCC Workshop.

Present: Sharron Cunningham, Kelli Campbell and Bob Reynolds (2:00 p.m.) and Dan Boone, Bob Gronholz and John Love (3:00 p.m. at Port office).

D063941B 23. Items discussed included new position title/job description, ADO position, a presentation by Dr. Steve Peterson of UI on economic impacts, utilities to Pullman-Moscow Airport and the Port's continued support for CETC. No action taken.

5:00 p.m. - Adjournment.

D063941C Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **May 2, 3 and 5, 2005** 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 **May 9, 2005**. The foregoing action made this **5th** day of **May 2005**.

ss/ G.R. FINCH, Commissioner
ss/ LES WIGEN, Commissioner

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners