

Minutes for May 6th, 2002

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059620 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **May 6, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.** Jerry Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

10:00 a.m. - Board Business.

D059620A 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Chris Anderson and Bob Lothspeich.

D059620B 2. The Treasurer reported in May 2001, Whitman County updated its Investment Policy as suggested by the State Auditor the prior year. In the process, the Washington Municipal Treasurer's Association (WMTA), not as an arm of, but as a representative to some extent of the State Treasurer's Office, and serves on the WMTA has a recommended format for investment policies. If a city/county complies with the approved format from the Washington Municipal Treasurer's Association and submits their policy to that organization, they review it and certify it if it meets their standards. Mr. Lothspeich submitted Whitman County's Investment Policy this past fall to WMTA and at the annual meeting in April Whitman County received the "Certificate of Excellence" plaque award. Both Commissioners Wigen and Finch congratulated and commended the Treasurer and his staff on receiving the award.

D059620B 3. Motion by Commissioner Wigen to approve the Consent Agenda with the deletion of items #1 and #3. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried**.

059621 4. April 29, 2002 minutes approved.

059622 5. An appointment of Deputy Auditor approved for Debbie Hooper.

059623 6. The Department of Ecology wrote approving the expansion of the Whitman County Water Conservancy Board from 3-5 members.

059624 7. Information was received from the Emergency Management Division pertaining to the E911 tax rates recently signed into law.

059624A 8. The Board signed a letter of support for the Community Action Center Housing Preservation grant.

059625 9. A letter was received from the State Auditor's Office concerning Category 1 BARS requirements.

059626 10. The Board received the results of the facilities safety survey conducted by Canfield & Associates, Inc.

059627 11. The Office of Financial Management submitted the estimated population figures for Justice Court districts listing Whitman County at 40,300.

059628 12. A letter was forwarded to Tom Fitzsimmons, Department of Ecology Director, regarding existing and new water right applications.

059629 13. A letter was sent to the County Auditor concerning oversight of his claims.

059630 14. A letter was sent to the Public Works Director concerning a vacant position in the Planning Department.

059631 15. Letters sent to Ray Turner/Peggy Harrington regarding the land use issues between them and their neighbors.

059632 16. Letter sent to Mike Werner concerning the 2002 Developmental Services budget error of \$7,192 and the Board's intent to consider correcting the error through the budget amendment process.

059633 17. A cover letter and proposed letter to Congressman Nethercutt seeking his support to keep Chief Timothy, Central Ferry and Lyons Ferry Parks open will be presented at the SE Washington commissioners meeting tonight for discussion.

D059633A 18. Commissioners' pending items reviewed.

10:20 a.m. - Recess.

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

Present: Roger Marcus.

059634 **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to accept the 2002 spray quote from ASAP Spray for the Bill Chipman Palouse Trail in the amount of \$4,200 including tax. Contract signed.

10:55 a.m. - Board Business Continued.

059635 19. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **134584-134628** for **\$73,022.69** approved by the Board after a **motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch.

FUND #	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	\$ 4,045.45
102	Building & Development	280.27
103	Countywide Planning	61.43
105	Mental Health	815.20
107	Chemical Dependency	203.80
110	County Roads	7,468.65
119	Emergency Services	85.00

129	HB 3900	112.94
400	Solid Waste	4,961.78
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	54,988.17

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

Present: Mark Storey.

Action Items:

059636 1. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** that the RAP project agreement for Peterson Bridge be signed as presented.

059637 2. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** that the bid for the Darden Bridge project be awarded to A&R Construction for a total bid amount of \$294,472.45.

Solid Waste Division:

059638 3. Spring Cleanup statistics: 444 vehicles; 316,480 lbs. of general waste; 134,220 lbs. of yard waste; 73,060 lbs. of scrap iron.

059639 4. Pesticide Collection statistics: 17 participants; 11,000 lbs. of pesticides collected. The Department of Agriculture will provide this collection every other year in Whitman County.

Planning Division:

D059639A 5. Ron Beasley's final plat was signed by the Commissioners.

Maintenance Division:

D059639B 6. The District I crew is currently crack-sealing. Next week the equipment will be moved to District III.

11:15 a.m. - Recess.

11:30 a.m. - Marlynn Markley, District Court Administrator

D059639C Ms. Markley said one of the first topics before the EAT Committee in 1998-99 was collection service. District Court has been turning cases over to collection since 1993-95 as authorized by state law to receive 100% of the money owed. Any fees added over and above the amount owed to the Courts is the Collection Agency's payment.

Legislation was later passed allowing any government entity to recoup 100% of money owed them, up from 50%.

A subcommittee of the EAT Committee (Collection Committee) was formed to explore what types of fees the different departments have difficulty collecting and what their needs were for collection services. They had presentations from several collection agencies and it worked out fairly well with respects to department needs.

Then it came down to writing a request for proposal (RFP). No member of the committee was comfortable taking on that task. It was Ms. Markley's understanding that the Civil Deputy would review RFP drafts but was not able to draft the RFP for the committee. Since there was no member of the committee with the knowledge to begin that process, it basically dead-ended there.

Ms. Markley was not aware of the specifics for other departments using collection agencies. Currently, District Court has \$871,000 in collections ranging over a 10-year period. They contract with Valley Empire Collection in Spokane. Within the last 3 years District Court has worked out a new agreement whereby District Court splits the interest collected by the collection agency.

District Court averages \$5,000 from collections. They are required by statute to pursue any amount. They do have some write off policies. If an account is not paid within 30 days, District Court sends one letter and then turns the account over to collection.

By law, District Court does not have to call for bids for a collection agency, but Ms. Markley thought they receive a better product by doing so.

Ms. Markley talked about some of the customer service options some counties/collection agencies are providing.

Commissioner Finch suggested Ms. Markley bring this issue back up at the EAT Committee. He also was of the opinion District Court should call for collection agency service bids every 2-3 years.

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

1:30 p.m. - Mike Werner, Developmental Services Director.

D059639D 1. The annual Developmental Services Award Banquet is tentatively scheduled for May 30th at 6 p.m. at the Wheat & Barley.

D059639E 2. Approximately 25 individuals from the area participated in the Special Olympics held April 27th in Spokane.

059640 3. As a result of legislation passed, a major shift is planned in the way the state will provide some social security, Optional State Supplementary Payments (OSSP). This shift reduces some of the county's day program dollars. Because of the many unanswered questions involved with this shift, Mr. Werner will attend a meeting next week in Spokane on the issue and consequently, won't be attending the EAT/BOCC Retreat.

D059640A 4. Mr. Werner said in February when visiting with the Board he talked about funds the state was cutting back from the previous biennium. It now appears Whitman County will receive \$11,684 in additional money. This money will allow them to serve one more high school transitional student. Also, in trying to balance the state budget, reduced the vendor rate increase of 2.3% in the second year to 1.5% costing the county approximately

\$3,500. However, Whitman County will still have an approximate \$8,000 net gain. In addition to a state budget amendment for the reduction/increase, Mr. Werner said the 2002 County Developmental Services budget would also require an amendment.

D059640B 5. DSHS Secretary Dennis Braddock is conducting stakeholder meetings in three different locations across the state to discuss the 2003-05 biennial strategic planning and budget building process.

2:00 p.m. - Adjournment.

D059640C Commissioner Wigen **moved** to adjourn the **May 6, 2002** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in their Chambers', in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington, on **May 13, 2002**. The foregoing action made this **6th** day of **May 2002**.

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

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners