

Minutes for May 12th, 2003

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061138 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **May 12, 2003** at **9:00 a.m.** G.R. "Jerry" Finch, Chairman, Greg Partch, and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

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

061138A 1. Items discussed included the joint Port/County Commissioners' meeting agenda items, Developmental Services contract, State Parks meeting, WSAC summer conference, BRATC meeting, RC&D update, Planning Commission workshop, and the joint Latah/Whitman County meeting agenda items. No action taken.

D061138B 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Brett Bosse.

D061138C 3. Motion by Commissioner Wigen to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried**.

061139 4. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **148634-148674, 148699-148730,** and **148799-148917** for **\$628,425.52** approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	24,722.31
103	Countywide Planning	138.60
104	Developmental Services	342.84
110	County Roads	19,751.84
118	Inmate Welfare	154.20
123	Paths & Trails	409.27
129	HB 3900	539.33
135	Prosecutor's Stop Grant	361.36
400	Solid Waste	4,698.79
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	21,852.07
510	Photocopier Revolving	2,616.50
690	Clearing & Suspense	214,732.81
ET	Electronic Transfer	338,105.60

061140 5. May 5, 2003 minutes approved.

061141-061151 6. Personnel board orders approved.

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061152 7. An invoice indicating Whitman County's share of revised retro assessment fees for policy years 1993-98 in the amount of \$539,253 was received from the Washington Counties Risk Pool. The invoice allowed for 6 different payment options paid over a period of 6 years. These costs are in addition to the county's annual premium due to the county's experience rating. The Chairman expressed his disappointment with the legislators who did not enact some sort of tort reform.

Commissioner Partch indicated no matter which option is selected, the county must go through a budget amendment. One of the main pillars of the Tri-Association legislative revenue package was tort reform. The bill carried through to the last day of the regular session where it died. It included caps on personal award findings and several other tort reform measures. **Motion** by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to select the option 1 payment plan of \$89,876/year for 6 years. The first payment is due by July 16, 2003 and the 5 remaining payments are due by January 31st of 2005-2008.

9:55 a.m. - Tammy Lewis and Kelli Campbell.

061153 8. **Motion** by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to subscribe to the Community Action Center GIS/database system service for \$50.00.

061154 9. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried** to enter into a contract amendment with Palouse River Counseling Center regarding liquor excise taxes.

061155 10. **Motion** by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to authorize the Chairman to sign the E911 operations contract amendment #E03023.

061156 11. **Motion** by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to accept the recommendations from the Classification Committee to appoint/reappoint Chad Connors, John Skyles, Dave Johnson, Travis Anderson, Bob Lothspeich, Julie Banks, and Doug Tyler to 2-year terms on the Committee expiring 06/01/05.

061157 12. **Motion** by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to authorize publishing a notice of hearing for proposed amendments to the flood hazard regulation sections of the Whitman County Zoning Ordinance.

10:15 a.m. - Fran Martin.

061158 13. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried** to sign the interagency agreement renewal between Whitman County and WSU Environmental Health for food handlers and inspection services.

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061159 14. A letter was received from Linda Kirk Fox of WSU acknowledging receipt of the Whitman County Cooperative Extension budget and thanking the county for its continued support.

061160 15. Letters were sent to all employees by Human Resources stating in accordance with legal regulations, Whitman County's flexible spending account plan documents have been updated to include privacy statements and a notice of privacy practices from AFLAC.

061161 16. An executed copy of the recycling memorandum of agreement between Spokane and Whitman County received.

D061161A 17. Commissioners' pending items reviewed.

10:20 a.m. - Recess.

10:30 a.m. - Rosalia Chamber of Commerce Appeal.

Present: Nanette Konishi, Yosh Konishi, Michael Echanove, Archie Neal, Brett Bosse, and Tammy Lewis.

061162 Nanette Konishi, representing the Rosalia Chamber of Commerce met with the Board to appeal their .08 funding application. The application requested \$93,750 for Phase II of a Visitor's Resource and Interpretive Center. Ms. Konishi presented and read a letter of appeal.

It was noted by the Board that there are actually no guidelines for an appeal process but that will later be addressed.

Archie Neal, Blue Ribbon Advisory Task Committee (BRATC) Chairman explained how the applications are reviewed and ranked pointing out it is a growing process. The criteria must be both legal and provide economic development.

10:45 a.m. - Hillary Hamm.

Michael Echanove, Mayor of Palouse said he wholeheartedly supports the Chamber's project. He commented that he did not see any difference between economic and community development. This particular project is a prime example of partners working together. Mr. Echanove said if these projects don't meet the obligations as stated, then something is wrong with the process. However, he respected everyone's hard work.

Mr. Neal said the Chamber's application is actually not an eligible application because the Chamber is not a government entity. If the BRATC wants to make a recommendation to award this project, it would be granted on a contingency basis requiring the City of Rosalia to take over the project.

The Board agreed that the BRATC is making their recommendations based on the commissioners' direction and the law.

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Chairman Finch thanked Ms. Konishi for her presentation noting the BRATC will hold a workshop tomorrow evening to review the criteria and ranking process. The commissioners will not make any decision until after that meeting.

11:15 a.m. - Dane Dunford, Public Works Director.

Present: Evan Ellis, Tammy Lewis, Hillary Hamm, Archie Neal, Mark Workman, and Mark Storey.

Administration Division:

061163 1. **Motion** by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to sign an agreement between Whitman County and Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee as presented.

061164 2. **Motion** by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** that the contract for crushing at Union Center Quarry between Whitman County and Seubert Excavators be signed as presented.

Maintenance Division:

D061164A 3. The Director provided a brief maintenance update.

11:30 a.m. - City of Pullman Appeal.

Present: Mark Workman, Evan Ellis, Tammy Lewis, Lou Ann Heroff, Carol Chipman, Spencer Rockett, Darl Roberts, Annette Syms, Dian Bender, and Archie Neal.

061165 Mr. Workman appealed the City's .08 funding application for \$160,500 to extend the south Grand Avenue sewer. He read a letter citing the City's justification as to why this project should be approved.

Commissioner Partch said he was supportive of the businesses located within the proposed sewer extension area, but at the same time he thought the City of Pullman has a responsibility. When the city extended their water line to annex the car dealership, they had that obligation. The county previously received 100% of the taxes collected but since the annexation, the county now receives only 15%. Over the last 12 months Pullman Ford has brought in approximately \$55,000 in sales tax. Of this amount, Pullman received \$47,931. The dealership has been in business for over 30 years therefore the city has received well over \$1.5 million of revenue from just this one business. The city has an obligation to set aside some of these funds for infrastructure when property is annexed.

Mr. Workman said the city has not set aside any of these funds. There is a difference between sales and property taxes and utility money. Utility systems do not receive general fund money not from property or sales taxes. Utilities are supported by user fees and not general fund money.

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Mr. Workman thought the city was stepping up to the plate by long-term financing the project. They anticipate a payback rate based on 100% bill-out. It will take many years for the loan to be repaid.

Mr. Workman said according to the .08 program application, infrastructure projects are encouraged. Commissioner Partch clarified infrastructure projects that preserve and bring in jobs. The BRATC has tried to stay away from funding infrastructure projects because all the cities/towns have infrastructure needs. Otherwise, the .08 funds would be distributed to all cities/towns based on population for that purpose.

Commissioner Wigen explained the BRATC is an advisory committee to the commissioners. Since its inception, the commissioners have only denied 2 projects. It later became apparent the criteria needed to be revised. Some members suggested to the commissioners, if they did not accept the committee's recommendations, the commissioners should review and rank the applications themselves. The committee does a good job and the commissioners continue to honor their recommendations.

Chairman Finch said the BRATC is holding a meeting tomorrow that he will attend to discuss the criteria and ranking. The Board will be sending the applications back to the committee for their re-consideration.

Archie Neal reiterated Commissioner Partch's comment that all cities/towns in the county have water and sewer system needs. It is the feeling of the BRATC that most of these problems should have been addressed by the local administration through reserve funds or increased fees. Prior to revising the criteria, projects were being funded that were obviously not driven by economic development. The pendulum may be leaning one way a little too far, but this program is still a work in process.

With respect to Pullman's application, the committee as a whole did not feel the project was economically driven based on the facts presented in the application. Mr. Neal suggested ways the City's application could be improved.

Spencer Rockett of Pullman Ford said it is very costly to pump the dealerships wastewater. Therefore, he approached Mr. Workman about extending the city sewer system on South Grand Avenue. When the .08 money was mentioned as a possibility he looked at it as an opportunity to ask for help for the community and businesses on South Grand Avenue. He understood Mr. Neal and Commissioner Partch's comments, but at the same time when Ford sells good and services and collect taxes for Whitman County and the City of Pullman, he looks at it as a community need to assist existing businesses as well as an enhancement to attract new business in this area.

Commissioner Wigen asked how soon the Evergreen Community would be connected to a sewer system. Dian Bender responded that the residents are obligated

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to connect to any sewer line along South Grand within 6 years from the time the sewer line is installed. If the .08 funds are approved, the cost to the Evergreen residents would be 2/3 or \$9,000-\$10,000 per household of what the residents in Pullman would pay.

Lou Ann Heroff wondered what business might have been lost in this area because there is no sewer system.

Darl Roberts, real estate broker said if a sewer line is installed it was his opinion it would have to be done by the city. Unfortunately, there are very small ownerships making it very costly for development. The South Grand corridor is a natural retail business development area. Mr. Roberts said he would like to see the sewer line in place as soon as possible to help existing businesses and to make the area more available for residential development.

Chairman Finch thanked everyone for attending stating the .08 applications would be referred back to the BRATC.

12:30 p.m. - Recess.

1:30 p.m. - Bob Reynolds, Palouse Empire Fair Manager.

061166 Mr. Reynolds talked about the cost associated with the printing of the 2003 Palouse Empire Fair book. A request for proposals was sent out to 6-7 printers in the county via the small works roster. In 2002 the charge was \$7,000. By changing the format to newspaper stock and creating the entire book in-house, the cost to print 3,000 copies is reduced to \$3,656.86 including tax and gives the county ownership of the book. The Fair will work towards obtaining donations to offset the cost of the book. The entire book is also on the Fair website. Mr. Reynolds recommended awarding the quote to Cougar Graphics for the amount stated above. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried** to award the printing of the 2003 Palouse Empire Fair Book to Cougar Graphics for #3,656.86.

1:45 p.m. - Recess.

2:00 p.m. - Transfer Station Lighting Project.

Present: Dane Dunford, Tim Davis, Mark Storey, Hillary Hamm, and Myrna Harrison.

061167 The following bids were received, opened, and read aloud. Staff will make a recommendation for award later today.

BIDDERS	AMOUNT
Strom Electric, Troy, Id	\$18,076.80
John's Electric, Lewiston, ID	\$16,096.96

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M&M Harrison Electric, Colfax, WA \$ 9,415.00

2:10 p.m. - Recess.

2:25 p.m. - Mike Werner, Developmental Services Coordinator.

Present: Hillary Hamm.

061167A Motion by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to sign a joint grant application for \$7,500 with Latah County. The application will be submitted to the National Association of Counties for an Early Childhood Development and School Readiness project.

2:30 p.m. - Recess.

3:00 p.m. - Transfer Station Lighting Project.

Present: Dane Dunford, John Davis, and Hillary Hamm.

061168 1. Motion by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried** to award the bid for the lighting project at the Transfer Station to M&M Harrison Electric in a total bid amount of \$8,750.00 w/o tax.

061169 2. A contract was also signed with M&M Harrison Electric for the above project.

D061169A 3. Motion by Commissioner Finch to go into Executive Session with Dane Dunford for discussion of personnel matters until 3:10 p.m. **Seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

3:10 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Recess.

3:15 p.m. - Whitman Hospital Appeal.

Present: John Davis, Archie Neal, and Hillary Hamm.

061170 Mr. Davis was present to appeal the Hospital District's denied application for \$50,000 in .08 funding for an assisted living/senior housing road and utility development. He clarified that the Hospital District's March 20th application supercedes their November 8th application.

Mr. Davis reviewed the existing and future hospital campus plans including an assisted living development that would entail the hiring of 20-30 individuals. They want to develop the road and utilities to the assisted living project and then further as they progress for a total estimated cost of \$150,000. The District is seeking \$50,000 of the .08 dollars to put the road and utilities in place at the same time the assisted living project is built.

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If the seniors are located nearby, they will continue to receive their care from the Whitman Medical Group. The plan is provide a continuum of care from independent living, to assisted living, to a hospital if needed, to physician offices if needed, to home health if needed, to a nursing home if needed. If everything comes together, the full spectrum of care will be covered.

Mr. Neal said this project was not declared inadequate from an economic standpoint, but rather a question of legal use of the .08 funds. Who would own the road when completed and would it be built to city standards? Also, there was no reference to any planning document listing as required by law.

Commissioner Wigen expressed his support for the BRATC and all other advisory committees.

3:25 p.m. - Tammy Lewis.

Chairman Finch commented all applications would be remanded to the BRATC and a decision rendered by the commissioners next week.

D061170A Motion by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to remand all .08 applications to the BRATC for reconsideration.

3:50 p.m. - **Adjournment.**

D061170B Commissioner Partch **moved** to adjourn the **May 12, 2003** 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 19, 2003**. The foregoing action made this **12th** day of **May 2003**.

ss/ GREG PARTCH, Commissioner
ss/ LES WIGEN, Commissioner

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

G.R. FINCH, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners