

Minutes for May 28th, 2002

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059705 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **May 28, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch Commissioner, and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

10:00 a.m. - Board Business.

D059705A 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.

D059705B 2. Motion by Commissioner Finch to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried**.

059706 3. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered 135392-135508 for \$246,379.80 approved.

| FUND # | FUND NAME | AMOUNT |
|--------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 001 | Current Expense | \$13,478.65 |
| 102 | Building & Development | 34.95 |
| 103 | Countywide Planning | 186.95 |
| 104 | Developmental Services | 31,596.07 |
| 105 | Mental Health | 4,532.42 |
| 107 | Chemical Dependency | 1,346.09 |
| 110 | County Roads | 30,722.75 |
| 118 | Inmate Welfare | 1,045.84 |
| 123 | Paths & Trails | 153.00 |
| 127 | Drug Enforcement | 311.41 |
| 129 | HB 3900 | 281.20 |
| 300 | Capital Projects | 518.14 |
| 400 | Solid Waste | 83,386.62 |
| 510 | Photocopier Revolving | 77,128.25 |
| 513 | Communications Revolving | 1,657.46 |

059707 4. May 20, 2002 minutes approved.

059708-059712 5. Personnel board orders approved.

059713 6. Motion by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried** to appoint David Lange to a 1-year term on the Whitman County Coordinating Committee.

059714 7. Letter sent to Colfax Mayor Norma Becker voicing no objections to Lipton Street remaining a one-way or reverting back to a two-way road.

10:05 a.m. - Jennifer Snead.

059715 8. A memo was received from the Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney regarding the Airport Law Enforcement services agreement. The Board was in agreement that the Chief Deputy should work with all parties involved to resolve the scheduling concern raised by the Chief Deputy.

059716 9. Information was received from the US Department of the Interior inviting Whitman County to partner with the Bureau of Land Management in a cooperating agency relation for the land use planning processes.

059717 10. A copy of a letter sent to Mike Werner was received from Laura Porter, Family Policy Council, concerning the closeout process for the Whitman County Public Health & Safety Network.

059718 11. An executed copy of the Avista Energy Efficiency agreement was received.

D059718A 12. Commissioners' pending items reviewed.

10:25 a.m. - Recess.

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

Present: Mark Storey.

Action Items:

059719 1. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried** that the WSDOT local agency agreement #LA3654 supplement #5 for the Pullman-Albion Road be signed as presented.

059720 2. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried** that the WSDOT local agency agreement #LA4064 supplement #3 for the Kimm Bridge be signed as presented.

Engineering Division:

D059720A 3. Mr. Dunford stated that the contractor began paving the Green Hollow Road today and will finish this week, weather permitting.

D059720B 4. Colton and Uniontown have called the Engineer for assistance with the Small Cities Pavement Preservation program. The county will be the cities certifying agency. Each program will be run through the Engineering Department. The county will prepare the bid documents, conduct the bid opening, and oversee and inspect the contractor's work.

Lacrosse received funding but will do any road work themselves. They will, however, use the county's small works vendor's list for bidding purposes.

Due to the state's financial situation, Mr. Dunford didn't expect this program to continue much longer.

The Engineer and his staff are also working with Rosalia and Albion on their T-21 projects.

Rosalia and Oakesdale also have some general seal coating penetration work to do outside of their program money that they will pay for with their city budget. The county road crews will do the work for the cities.

D059720C 5. Mr. Dunford said there would be a pre-construction meeting June 11th with the Darden, Warner, and Fitzgerald Bridge contractors. He will notify the Board when construction on these bridges is due to commence. These construction projects will take place during harvest, there will be detours, and it will be inconvenient, but the county has no other option.

Maintenance Division:

D059720D 6. Districts 1 and 2 are laying hot mix and District 3 is crack sealing. Repairs to the county parking lot will be done, if possible, after District 3 finishes their crack-sealing program.

D059720E 7. The spray contractor has completed the far west portion of the county and plans to do the southeastern portion next, eventually ending up in the Tekoa area.

11:25 a.m. - Tim Myers, Parks, Fair, Facilities and Risk Management.

D059720H Mr. Myers provided a Risk Management update.

11:50 a.m. - Recess.

1:30 p.m. - Judy Allen, Community Action Center Director (CAC).

Present: Amy Robbins, Christine Wall, Rob Painter Johnson, Dave Webb, and Karl Johanson.

Ms. Allen introduced Amy Robbins, CAC Program Manager for Family Development and oversees the Emergency Shelter Program; Christine Wall, Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse; Rob Painter-Johnson and Dave Webb of Sojourners Alliance.

059721 Judy Allen explained that the Emergency Shelter Assistance Program (ESAP) has been in the area since 1986. It has provided the framework of the infrastructure for emergency shelter services for the homeless. Since the early 1990's, Whitman County has been a part of what the state refers to as, "continuum of care of services", not just housing but all supportive services that go along with it. This gives homeless individuals the opportunity to transition from an emergency shelter to semi-permanent housing and potentially, through training or a job, qualify for permanent housing.

Community Action has had the ESAP as well as two other components added in the last biennium, Families With Children (DSHS money that helped augment CAC funds) and Prevention dollars totaling \$47,000 to assist with the framework of the infrastructure.

The ESAP, which had been eliminated by the legislature as of this last session, will actually be supported or backfilled for just this existing contract year (2002-2003). After that, CAC will be looking for other funding sources. CAC has been asked to immediately begin procedures to start a local county fund so it is in place by July 1, 2002.

All this is based on projections for the amount of funding that could be generated with the new \$10 surcharge on documents recorded in the County Auditor's office. These documents pertain to property, real estate transactions, etc. They estimate in a given year, the local funds could be as much as \$22,000. Of the \$10 surcharge collected, 60% will stay with the county and 40% will go to the state and administered by the reconstituted Office of Community Trade and Economic Development. This money should somewhat offset the \$26,475 eliminated by the legislature.

059722 The estimated \$22,000 collected and retained by the county must be used for acquisition/construction/rehab of housing units, support of building/maintenance operation for Housing Trust Fund projects only, emergency shelter, and rental assistance vouchers.

She stated it is critical that this process be established.

1:40 p.m. - Ray Turner.

059723 Amy Robbins discussed the emergency shelter assistance program statistics for September 1, 2000-September 1, 2001.

Christine Wall, Director of Alternatives to Violence in the Palouse used statistics to show how prevalent the need for homeless shelters are for domestic violence victims. Ms. Wall said the cooperation between the various agencies in Whitman County is very solid. The Board should be very proud to know how hard the agencies work collaboratively to address homelessness. She asked the commissioners to look favorably in support of these funds.

Rob Painter-Johnson, Executive Director of Sojourners Alliance in Moscow indicated he works with both agencies represented here today to provide services for Whitman County. Mr. Johnson said housing is the foundation for people; it is the very core that provides stability. Without it they cannot hope to move people from homelessness to any other kind of situation. Sojourners has a computer bank on site, they perform job searches, teach computer skills, provide case management counseling and collaborate with other area agencies to make sure people obtain everything they are entitled.

One reason these monies are so important is that Sojourners is mostly HUD funded (federal dollars passing through the state). There have been increasing matching fund requirements. One of the progressive things Washington has done in the past is to provide matching dollars. For them to even receive HUD monies, they must meet the matching requirements. Rural areas have a very hard time competing against large cities like San Francisco or New York's housing problems to acquire any matching funds. In the case of the HUD funds, Sojourners is able to quadruple the amount of

funding provided through this source. Otherwise, the county would not have access to these monies.

059724 Ms. Allen reviewed the draft interlocal cooperation agreement proposed for the county and the 16 cities/towns in Whitman County. She has spoken with County Auditor Dave Repp and Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Ron Shirley about this issue. As she understands, the Washington State Auditor's Association does have procedures in place to put the surcharge in effect as of July 1, 2002. There are several mitigating factors involved.

1. Funding through programs like the Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) sometimes fluctuate from year to year so the agency may need to tap into a fund like this to help support those infrastructure costs.
2. There is already a waiting list for homeless families who are waiting for transitional housing. This is a major issue because this means people are staying in shelters longer until they can obtain transitional housing.
3. There is also a waiting list of over 300 households for the Section 8 rental assistance program.
4. There has always been a migration of families between Spokane and Whitman Counties.

Ms. Allen asked for the Board's approval to have the agreement signed and underway in order to begin collecting the funds as of July 1, 2002. Commissioner Partch asked what happens if some of the cities/towns want some of this money and don't sign the agreement. Ms. Allen said the funding is very restrictive, but technically, a city/town could request some of these funds. Commissioner Partch asked Ms. Allen how CAC will assure the cities/towns the service will be available to them. Ms. Allen said if a city/town has an interest in establishing an affordable housing project in their community, they can contact CAC for assistance. It appears there is a need to educate the people in the cities/towns about this service. Judy Allen will contact mayors for their input.

Staff will work toward preparing a resolution designating a fund for the deposit of emergency shelter assistance surcharge funds.

2:00 p.m. - Ray Turner, Pullman.

D059724A Mr. Turner said he visited with Mr. Shirley about his concerns. Mr. Shirley advised him he would have to seek an attorney because it is a civil issue. The only thing in question is, "Was Ms. Harrington and he denied due process under the CZC concerning notification about the construction of a home in 1997"? Today he found out there were two other people (Motley-Motley and Harlow's) that should have been notified and were not, so now there are a total of 4 that were never notified about this situation. Mr. Turner proposed a joint meeting with the Board and Planner.

Chairman Partch said notification is the issue. Another meeting won't accomplish anything because there is a difference of opinion. The property

was a "gifting of land" and not a sale. Based on what he knows about this issue, he felt the county did follow procedures. This comes down to a judge making the determination. The Chairman said it would be in Mr. Turner's best interest to hire an attorney to resolve this issue because this is not in the realm of the county to make the decision. Commissioner Finch concurred.

2:30 p.m. - Bob Gronholz, Port of Whitman County.

Present: Joe Poire, Karl Johanson, Ron Shirley, Fran Martin, and Jennifer Snead.

D059724B 1. The Chairman advised the Port representatives, that the mower and tractor will not be a part of the agreement if the Airport is transferred to the Port. Also, for insurance purposes, work release people cannot operate any equipment at the Airport.

D059724C 2. Mr. Gronholz made a presentation to the Board for the transfer of the Community Education Training Center (CETC) building to the county.

When the Port purchased the building Mr. Gronholz said an incubator business was housed in the building (Cougar Paws). That business has now been shut down for over a year. The Port's counsel is concerned that the Port is still involved in an activity that they don't have explicit approval to be involved in and that is the education business. Therefore, they are coming to the commissioners to see if they would be interested in taking over the building and leasing it back to the Whitman County Business & Development Association. The Port Commissioners are very appreciative of the activities taking place in the CETC, which is serving a vital importance to the county.

Ms. Martin indicated the Port is willing to rent the space they currently use to house their economic development coordinator. The other advantage of the building being owned by the county is that it broadens the county's ability to seek grant funding.

Commissioner Finch asked if in fact economic development is considered education. According to the Port's counsel, Mr. Gronholz said the Port is not by statute specifically prohibited from engaging in educational activities, but they don't have explicit approval to be involved in that area.

Mr. Gronholz said if the county did accept the building, the Port would like an addendum to the transfer that states in the event the building is not used for education, it would revert back to the Port who could use the building for incubator businesses.

Ron Shirley thought the proposal is obviously something to consider. One option might be that it could be used as a location for expanding county offices.

Commissioner Finch said the third board member obviously needs to be involved in this discussion and he would also like to visit with staff members for their input before making any decision.

Chairman Partch said the Board would take the request under consideration. However, at this time, the county cannot take on anything that will cost money.

3:00 p.m. - Recess.

4:00 p.m. - BOCC Workshop.

Present: Dane Dunford and Mark Bordsen.

059725 Items discussed included the Building Rehab proposal, FEMA Flood Hazard, and the Public Service Building copy machine. No action taken.

5:00 p.m. - Recess.

D059725A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **May 31, 2002 at 2:00 p.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

2:00 p.m. - Reconvene/Kelli Shrope, Human Resources.

Present: Gary Hunt.

D059725B Motion by Commissioner Finch to go into Executive Session with Ms. Shrope and Mr. Hunt for discussion of personnel matters until 3:00 p.m. **Seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried**.

3:00 p.m. - Return to Open Session.

3:00 p.m. - Tom Dickson, Snohomish County.

D059725C Mr. Dickson made a courtesy visit to the Board.

4:00 p.m. - Adjournment.

D059725D Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **May 28 and 31, 2002** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in their Chambers', in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington, on **June 3, 2002**. The foregoing action made this **31st** day of **May 2002**.

ss/ JERRY FINCH, Commissioner

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

