

Minutes for June 4, 2012

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073081 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Monday, June 4, 2012** at **9:00 a.m.** Chairman Greg Partch, Patrick J. O'Neill and Michael Largent, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

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

Present: Gary Petrovich, Joe Smillie and Kelli Hadley.

073082 1. Items discussed included GAQC alert regarding federal funds, 2011 financial statements, revised BARS chart of accounts, USCA request and liability insurance. No action taken.

9:20 a.m. - Recess.

10:00 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Karen Johnson, Joan Willson, Joe Smillie and Kelli Hadley.

D073082A 2. Motion by Commissioner O'Neill to accept the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Largent and **carried**.

073083 3. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **263353-263424** for **\$161,712.62** approved.

073084 4. Veteran's relief claim approved.

073085 5. May 21, 2012 minutes approved.

073086-073087 6. Personnel change orders approved.

073088 7. A letter was received from Leslee Miller of the Uniontown Community Development Association (UCDA) requesting that the \$30,000 in Public Facilities (.09) funds awarded to the UCDA in 2011 for the "Dahmen Barn Loafing Shed" be transferred to the UCDA's 2012 application for the "Uniontown Food Products Processing Center and Market" project.

Commissioner O'Neill recused himself from any discussion or vote since he serves on the UCDA Board.

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Commissioner Largent indicated the UCDA presented a good project for the 2012 grant cycle. However the notion to take a 2011 award, scrap that project and attach that money to an entirely different project in 2012 is not something he supports. He would suggest that the UCDA submit an entirely new project. Then it is up to the Blue Ribbon Advisory Task Committee to determine if the project prevails or not. But for the UCDA to suggest that an unrelated project is somehow related would be unfair to other applicants. Therefore, Commissioner Largent **moved** and Commissioner Partch **seconded** the motion that they do not carry forward the money from the 2011 project be awarded to a new and different application project in 2012. Commissioner Partch agreed with Commissioner Largent that the UCDA has a very sound application that can still be submitted to the Blue Ribbon Advisory Task Committee (BRATC) allowing it to stand on its own merits. Motion **carried**. The BRATC and UCDA were informed the county will not authorize the transfer of .09 funds from 2011 for the UCDA's 2012 project and that .09 money is not an additional funding source for the UCDA's application.

073089 8. A letter was received from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) regarding the 2012 Title VI annual accomplishment and update report.

073090 9. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

10:15 a.m. - Fran Martin.

073091 10. Fran Martin met with the Board to relay the EAT Committee's recommendations concerning the Classification Committee's May 21, 2012 proposal. EAT concurred the proposal would impact the classification system in a positive manner, provide a more easily understood system for employees and giving the department heads appropriate tools to manage their personnel costs and budgets. EAT sees the changes and associated costs as being reasonable and achievable. The committee supports changing the employee salary system and implementing raises in 2013; they further recommend the Board consider increasing the "catch up" raise for 2013 from 1% to 2%. EAT requested these proposals be used in preparing the 2013 budget.

Commissioner Largent asked about the associated costs for 2013 and Ms. Martin said they are approximately \$40,000 for 2013. Commissioner Largent thought the issue of how to fund should be tied to how to spend. He wanted to make sure they are not over spending in light of the fact this would be added to the list of cuts that need to be made for 2013.

All commissioners were interested in seeing a departmental break-down of the costs.

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Commissioner O'Neill wondered if the 2% catch-up is included in the \$40,000. Gary Petrovich replied the \$41,000 covers the 1% catch up and the \$27,000 covers the 2% longevity increase proposed for the general fund employees with a \$10,000 conversion savings in reducing step increases from 3% to 2%.

Commissioner Largent said in his view he finds that to be useful information in determining what is reasonable. He thought there was a mistake at the last meeting also when he questioned the revenue source and the retort given was, "that isn't our job". Funding is always the issue and the issue of how to fund would certainly be tied to the issue of how to spend.

In response to Commissioner O'Neill's question, Ms. Martin stated all department heads in attendance at the EAT meeting were in agreement with implementing the changes. Only two department heads were absent from the meeting. Commissioner O'Neill said he would like to know which department heads were not in attendance because this has to be something everyone buys into. Ms. Martin said in the past when the EAT Committee has offered to assist the commissioners they have done so as a countywide team. Commissioner Largent explained EAT has come with a consensus and a uniformed position, the same as the county commissioners.

Bob Reynolds said the ultimate goal of both committees is to get this issue "how they develop the 2013 budget" on the agenda. It didn't need affirmation now, but they would like to use this as a parameter in developing their budget proposals for 2013 and all detailed financial information will then be available to the Board. Their question today is can they use these parameters to build their departmental budgets with these employee cost considerations.

10:20 a.m. - Bill Tensfeld.

Commissioners Largent voiced his appreciation for the feedback from the EAT Committee and Commissioner O'Neill concurred. Commissioner Partch said he had some concerns. He needed to see a breakdown of the numbers to show all changes for wages and benefits. As Commissioner Largent stated, the Board will have to look at revenue versus expenditures and this increase will just add to any deficit. The commissioners will then have to return to the department heads seeking additional revenue or reductions to the budget. He also pointed out the only employees the Board can make wage changes for are the non-represented. All represented employees' wages must be negotiated. He appreciated the EAT Committees work on this issue but noted, including it in the budget is no guarantee, it just means the Board is aware this is something EAT has brought to them as a top priority.

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The Board was not prepared to make a decision today but during the course of budgeting for 2013, they will notify Gary Petrovich if this is something that should be built into the budget.

10:25 a.m. - Recess.

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D073091A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Monday, June 11, 2012** at **9:00 a.m.** Chairman Greg Partch, Patrick J. O'Neill and Michael Largent Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

9:00 a.m. - Meeting Reconvened/Board Business Continued/Workshop.

Present: Gary Petrovich, Joe Smillie and Kelli Hadley (9:00 a.m.) and Fran Martin and Michael Baker (9:30 a.m.).

073092 11. Items discussed included the 2013 Budget Goals & Priorities letter, 2014-15 budget forecasting, Franklin County resolution, arrival of wind turbines and out-of-class pay for three Public Health/Emergency Management staffers. No action taken.

9:45 - Recess.

10:00 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued.

Present: Joan Willson, Karen Johnson, Gary Petrovich, Joe Smillie and Kelli Hadley.

073093 12. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **263427-263529** for **\$286,481.69** approved.

073094-073101 13. Personnel change orders approved.

073102-073103A 14. Letters were received from Shelley Calissendorff, Robin Booth and Carmel Travis requesting the commissioners ban all future traveling animal acts in Whitman County.

10:30 a.m. - Recess.

11:00 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.

Present: Les Ruhs, Phil Riche, Chris Youngberg, Jennifer Hamer, Rhonda Ross and Gary Petrovich.

073104 15. A presentation for Whitman County liability insurance discussed. No action taken.

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

2:00 p.m. - Board Business Continued/Executive Session.

Present: Denis Tracy, Milton Rowland, Mark Storey and Gary Petrovich.

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073105 16. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to go into executive session with the above individuals until 2:45 p.m. in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for matters related to litigation.

2:45 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Adjourn.

D073105A Commissioner O'Neill **moved** to adjourn the **June 4 and 11, 2012** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Largent and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in their Chambers', in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington, on **June 18, 2012**. The foregoing action made this **11th** day of **June 2012**.

ss/ PATRICK J. O'NEILL, COMMISSIONER
ss/ MICHAEL LARGENT, COMMISSIONER

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners