

Minutes for June 24th, 2002

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059786 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **June 24, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

10:00 a.m. - Board Business.

D059786A 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Chris Anderson, Evan Ellis, and Jennifer Snead.

D059786B 2. Motion by Commissioner Finch to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

059787 3. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **136204-136231** and **136487-136641** for **\$510,340.42** approved. It was noted that the Auditor had no budget authority for one \$30 claim for post office box rent. The Board sent the Auditor a letter suggesting he change the BARS Code number in order to process the claim.

FUND#	FUND NAME	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	\$ 35,082.10	\$ 6,639.20	\$ 55,325.58
101	Self Insurance			
102	Building & Development	1,000.00	200.00	5.14
103	Countywide Planning		1,000.00	175.59
104	Developmental Services			32,329.60
105	Mental Health	6,675.20	250.00	
107	Chemical Dependency	1,449.60		
110	County Roads	15,443.00	4,797.20	97,619.00
118	Inmate Welfare			1,036.05
123	Paths & Trails			2,150.92
127	Drug Enforcement			31,777.41
129	HB 3900			541.38
138	Federal Equitable Sharing			202.00
400	Solid Waste	1,750.00		6,811.30
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	3,983.00		202,340.07
513	Communications Revolving			37.50
658	Rural Library	522.38		
690	Clearing & Suspense		1,197.20	

059788 4. June 17, 2002 minutes approved.

059789-059794 5. Personnel board orders approved.

059795 6. A request for a \$46,150 budget amendment was received from the County Auditor and tabled for a personal discussion with the Auditor.

059796 7. Letter was received from the Washington State Department of Transportation notifying the commissioners of the resurfacing project scheduled to begin in July on SR 127. Letters were sent to the Dusty Café, Dusty Farm Co-op, McGregor Company, Arrow Machinery, and Jones Truck & Implement notifying them of this project.

059797 8. Notice of proposed exchanges of public and private lands in Adams, Lincoln, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman Counties was received from the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. The Assessor determined the property located in Whitman County involves 12,000 acres of which \$972 in property taxes is collected each year but would be lost if the exchange goes through. The commissioners chose not to oppose the proposed transfer.

059798 9. A letter of support for the Whitman County Scenic Byway project was forwarded to the Pullman Chamber of Commerce.

059799 10. A copy of a letter sent to Joe Poire, Port of Whitman County Director was received from the Office of Trade and Economic Development. The letter pertained to the required establishment of an economic development steering committee, per RCW 43.330.080, in order to retain the ADO status for Whitman County.

059800 11. A letter was sent to Don Barbieri, Spokane Regional Chamber regarding dental care for youths and a proposal to Avista concerning electrical costs.

D059800A 12. Commissioners' pending items reviewed.

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

Present: Mark Storey.

Action Items:

059801 1. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** that the resolution to close Warner Road for replacement of the Warner Bridge be signed as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 059801

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Whitman County, Washington in the matter of closing a certain county road/bridge pursuant to RCW 47.48.010;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the following road/bridge will be closed to vehicular traffic: County Road No. 1100, the Warner Road at milepost 4.15, beginning approximately July 15, 2002 until completion of the replacement of the Warner Bridge, which is estimated to be October 21, 2002. All traffic will be detoured along the gravel portion of the Hanson Road and the Gumm Road, which is approximately 2.5 miles.

ADOPTED this 24th day of June 2002.

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

059801A 2. Motion by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to publish the notice of road closure for the Warner Bridge project.

Solid Waste Division:

D059801B 3. Latah County's tub grinder is at the Landfill and grinding will begin tomorrow.

D059801C 4. Solid Waste staff has removed some clay to the right of the blue gates at the Landfill to make a new site for yard waste. Staff will be able to keep a better eye on the yard waste pile as well as being able to close the blue gates to the demo cell. The Department of Ecology (DOE) recommended these changes. Anyone with demo material will have to stop and wait until the gates are opened and the load inspected.

Engineering Division:

D059801D 5. Mr. Dunford said about 4 weeks ago a resident near the Parvin Road was burning yard waste. The fire got away from her and burned a county bridge. She contacted the county and the bridge was inspected. The Director instructed the resident to contact her insurance company, which she did and the county has received a check for material replacement of the bridge less 20% for depreciation. The county will reconstruct the bridge later this week and any concerns about harvest have been resolved.

D059801E 6. Mark Storey and Randy Black talked to Bob Alderman some time ago about the Steptoe Bridge detour on Cass Road. This detour will cross the corner of Mr. Alderman's property who had no objections. When the Bridge Crew went out Thursday to set up the detour Mr. Alderman said the county could not cross his property unless his road was paved at the same time. Mr. Alderman had contacted Mr. Dunford about a month prior when he learned the bridge was going to be replaced and said this would be the perfect time to pave the road. Mr. Dunford explained to Mr. Alderman that nothing had changed for this road meaning the county does not have the money to pave it. The Director also advised Mr. Alderman that residents south of Pullman are paying their portion through the Road Improvement District (RID) process to pave the road in front of their houses and this same process is available to the Cass Road residents. However, Mr. Alderman was not

interested in paying for a paved road. The Engineer and Phil Meyer met with Mr. Alderman last week. The end result is Mr. Alderman did agree to allow the detour.

Maintenance Division:

D059801F 7. Sealcoating begins July 8 and will continue through the end of the month.

11:35 a.m. - Recess.

2:00 p.m. - Coordinating County, State, and Federal Ordinance.

Present: Clarence Claypool, and Randy Baldree.

Commissioner Wigen was not available for this meeting.

D059801B Chairman Partch convened the hearing. Clarence Claypool summarized the proposed revisions to the ordinance. Mr. Baldree said the proposed changes were collected through a series of meetings allowing the committee's input and advice from various groups. The amendments to the ordinance came about in an orderly fashion and everyone considered what was needed to make the document more useful and to provide a clearer direction as to the role of the committee as an advisory group to the commissioners.

Since no one was in attendance to speak against the proposal the hearing was closed.

059802 Motion by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried** to accept the revisions to the above-mentioned ordinance.

2:10 p.m. - Recess.

2:25 p.m. - Chad Connors, Juvenile Administrator.

D059803A 1. The Law & Justice Committee voted to suspend the July and August meetings.

D059803B 2. Prosecutor Jim Kaufman is preparing a revised membership resolution for the Board's consideration. Commissioner District I and III positions are currently vacant on the committee.

D059803C 3. The Sheriff and Juvenile Department entered into a memorandum of understanding allowing the Sheriff to use the 6-bed juvenile cell when available to aid the adult overcrowding issue. In turn, the Sheriff's Department will assist the Juvenile Department with late night transports to Martin Hall.

D059803D 4. A professional services contract was entered into on March 11, 2002 with the University of Idaho Child and Use Study Center (059379). Mr. Connors requested items from the U of I as required by the contract that the university was unable to provide. As it turned out, someone signed the

contract that was not authorized to sign on behalf of the university. The county has not paid anything to date and will not be paying anything on this contract. Mr. Connors recommended sending a letter to the university terminating the contract. He has already talked to university staff that agrees this is their error. The Administrator is in the process of drafting a new contract with language everyone can agree on and he will be working with the Risk Pool and Prosecutor's office to get a new contract in place. Youths already referred under this contract will continue counseling under a good faith agreement at no cost to the county.

D059803E 5. Other areas touched on included bed day statistics, the Juvenile Department's budget status, vehicles, Martin Hall Pilot Project grant through Rural Resources for youth workforce training, sentencing practices, and the 2003 legislative session.

D059803F 6. As of July 1, 2002 a new law takes effect requiring juveniles convicted of a felony or misdemeanor harassment must undergo DNA database sampling at the time of sentencing. A meeting to iron out the details will take place July 1st. Rather than all Whitman County cities/towns implementing a similar program, Whitman County will assume this responsibility. Nothing is ready as yet including the Washington State Patrol (WSP) for implementing this legislation. All testing samples will be sent to the WSP at no cost to the county and the results retained in their database. Mr. Connors said Whitman County would maintain a master list from July 1, 2002 of those individuals that need to be tested. Once everything is up and running the required youths will be tested.

D059803G 7. When questioned, Mr. Connors said he has explored video arraignments and talked to staff and the judge. He currently has no money to implement this program. Some of his staff members don't like the idea. Their belief is that having the youth present facing the judge at the time of sentencing is more effective. His response to that is they might be looking at a fiscal issue more than anything. In talking with the Adams County Juvenile Court Administrator, they have used this process and like it. In the long run, it can save money. Mr. Connors may have access to \$10,000 at the end of August that could be earmarked for video arraignments, but that would depend on whether or not the county wants to sacrifice the current Community Service Work Program for a year to implement video arraignments. The Chairman said they might also approach the legislature for funding. The Administrator said this could possibly fall under the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding arena.

2:55 p.m. - Recess.

D059803H THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **June 25, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

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

Present: Bob Lothspeich.

059804 Items discussed included Whitcom contract, WSAC conference, Larry Sheahan, Nolan Building, internet access at the Fairgrounds, City of Pullman joint meeting, Auditor's budget amendment request, bonding, applications for Administrative Director, BLM letter, WSU solar panel letter, LEOFF I members, and the Port meeting. No action taken.

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

2:00 p.m. - Board of Health.

Present: Fran Martin, and Robin Cocking.

D059804A 1. A school nurse has been hired for 9 months/year (August 1-June 15) as a savings measure. Ms. Martin will explore the possibility of spreading the salary out for this position over a 12-month period like the schools do. A dietician has also been hired at half time.

D059804B 2. One of the members of the 3-county health partnership was involved in an accident and has been hospitalized since June 10th. Ms. Martin proposed a plan to the Garfield Board of Health that will get them through December 1st at which time the plan will be reevaluated. Ms. Martin said she is committed to keeping everything going as best she can. The Garfield County Board of Health did appoint a lead nurse to perform the day-to-day work and billings for all 3-partnership counties are on schedule.

D059804C 3. A bioterrorism regional meeting was hosted by Whitman County yesterday. The consortium consists of Adams, Asotin, Garfield, and Columbia Counties. All counties were present with the exception of Asotin. Representatives from Spokane County also attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to set up what will be done regionally. Ms. Martin proposed entering into an interdepartmental agreement with the Whitman County Sheriff's Office for reimbursement in exchange for assistance with the drafting of the Bioterrorism Plan. After the first of the year, the consortium will also work with the Whitman County Sheriff's Office to perform Incident Command training. This will be paid for with grant funds received for this purpose. The Board voiced no objections.

Judy Stone is Whitman County's Bioterrorism Coordinator and John Skyles is the back-up Coordinator. Rita Konzal is the County Emergency Preparedness representative.

2:15 p.m. - Dr. Moody.

D059804D 4. Staff is working on completing evaluations for the school year and returning them to the school districts. The schools are evaluating the nurses and will submit that information to Public Health. To Ms. Martin's knowledge, all schools have completed their addendums to the annual contract, which means they are either requesting the same amount of time as the previous year or have asked for additional hours. The rates were raised by \$5/hour to a total of \$25/hour consistent with what ESD 101 pays Whitman

County for nursing services. Ms. Martin is willing to reduce the amount of hours for any school to offset the increase, but none of the schools have rejected the increase.

D059804E 5. Dr. Moody talked about the West Nile Virus, unknown to the western hemisphere until 2-3 years ago. It was primarily found in Europe and Africa and is carried by mosquitoes causing encephalitis in humans. The virus is making its way across the United States from east to west and has caused 120 human deaths over the past 2 years. The host of this virus is usually found in birds and mammals and some birds like crows, ravens, and magpies also die from the virus. The state is trying to be preemptive in its effort to monitor mosquito and dead bird populations and also make sure physicians are reporting any mysterious cases of illness, encephalitis primarily, or any other unknown causes. Whitman County is working with the State Department of Health and Environmental Health Division on protocols for collecting dead birds, getting them tested, and putting information together to make sure physicians are aware of this particular illness because in all likelihood, they would not have seen it before.

D059804F 6. Dr. Moody gave a brief meningitis update.

D059804G 7. Ms. Martin spoke with the claims adjustor in Texas about the county's \$5,000 claim submitted to Greyhound Bus Lines.

D059804H 8. The Chairman and Director attended the Community of Hope meeting looking at dental issues for children who are on medical coupons or are indigent. The meeting held in Pullman focused on Pullman youths. Whitman County is focusing on Colfax north youths. The four Colfax dentists have agreed to see clients referred to them by the Health Department ½ day per week each. In exchange, Whitman County agreed to be involved in a very heavy preventative program. A program called Tooth Tutor teaches children how to take care of their teeth. There is also a varnish that can be applied by trained medical or dental personnel to help prevent cavities. Cindy McSweeney, dental hygienist and former contracted employee is willing to contract one day per week to screen kids in daycares centers and schools, apply the varnish treatment, and/or make appointments with dentists. Because of Whitman County's efforts, the Pullman dentists had a meeting and are trying to develop a similar program.

059805 9. Ms. Martin distributed copies of an article that appeared in the Lewiston Tribune about Whitman County's needle exchange program whereby some local merchants expressed their displeasure with the program. It is routine for the department to send letters to businesses asking them to post a sign in their public restrooms about the needle exchange program. This program is called Prevention Plus and it has 3 components; needle exchange, bleach and teach, and heavy education. This 3-tiered program is operated through a grant from Walla Walla. This is not just for drug users, but also diabetics and individuals with allergies. It is a needle for needle exchange. The reporter of the article investigated the program, talked with the Whitman County Sheriff, the Pullman Police Chief, and a couple merchants. Ms. Fran said she was very pleased with the article. Not only does the Health Department try to get drug users into treatment, they are

also trying to protect the innocent people so they aren't accidentally stuck with a needle found in a park or somewhere else, or are a partner of these people who don't know they might have a bloodborne disease.

D059805A 10. John Skyles completed the Group B water system review certification and has submitted his report to the state.

D059805B 11. Commissioner Finch asked what would happen to Garfield and Columbia Counties if the legislature takes the Health Department money away. Ms. Martin said there would be a minimum amount of money to operate the counties mandated health departments. She foresees more regional services. The catch to that is to help maintain the autonomy, which is what they have now, where every Board of Health oversees their county's needs. The partnership has previously reviewed the various positions that could be shared. Ms. Martin also thought Adams and Asotin Counties would be added to the current partnership.

D059805C 12. Motion by Commissioner Finch to go into Executive Session at 2:45 p.m. with the above individuals for discussion of personnel and contract negotiations matters until 3:05 p.m. **Seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

3:05 p.m. - Return to Open Session.

D059805D 13. The Board authorized Ms. Martin to hire an Environmental Health Technician with the stipulation if the grant funds for the position are terminated so will the position.

3:10 p.m. - Adjournment.

D059805E Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **June 24** and **25, 2002** 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 **July 1, 2002**. The foregoing action made this **25th** day of **July 2002**.

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

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners