

## Minutes for July 6, 2010

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**070869 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Tuesday, July 6, 2010** 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/BOCC Workshop.**

Present: Joe Smillie, Evan Ellis, Sarah Mason and Kelsey Samuels.

**070870 1.** Items discussed included the Finance Department, State Highway signage email, 2011 budget calendar and 2011 goals and priorities, Auditor's letter and WRCIP update. No action taken.

**10:00 a.m. - Pledge of Allegiance.**

Present: Joe Smillie, Evan Ellis, Sarah Mason and Kelsey Samuels.

**D070870A 2. Motion** by Commissioner Largent to accept the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner O'Neill and **carried**.

**070871 3.** Claims/Payroll warrants numbered 241103-241134, 241184-241210 and 241234-241315 for **\$474,781.71** approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	14,322.77	1,951.88	44,219.32
101	Self Insurance			2,862.10
102	Building & Development	993.07		5.47
103	Countywide Planning			27.09
104	Developmental Services		37,006.75	
110	County Roads	519.93	53.95	5,904.91
111	CETC Building			241.46
112	Public Facilities Improvement			5,921.10
117	Boating Safety			505.32
118	Inmate Welfare			249.01
127	Drug Enforcement-Quad City		192.98	2,941.11
128	Crime-Victims/Witness-CTED 001	208.44		
135	Prosecutor's Stop Grant			2,000.00
137	Web Site Development	57.96		
143	Trial Court Improve 143.030.000			6,308.45
144	Emerg. Communicat. 144.260.001	8,236.20		10,494.42
300	CIP Asset Acquisit. 300.010.001		782.67	

BOCC MINUTES-07/06/10

400	Solid Waste		344.97	1,829.88	8.63
410	Solid Waste Reserve				
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving		4,357.00	144,751.01	3,776.23
513	Communications Revolving		2,304.71		
660	Whitcom-General	660.911.000	822.58	85,502.83	3,553.23
660	Whitcom-Grant	660.911.001	49,668.67	31,855.61	

070872 4. June 21, 2010 minutes approved.

070873-070887 5. Personnel board orders approved.

070888 6. Commissioner O'Neill moved Commissioner Largent seconded the motion and it carried to authorize publishing a notice to vendors and contractors for inclusion on Whitman County's small works, vendors and professional services rosters.

070889 7. Commissioner O'Neill moved Commissioner Largent seconded the motion and it carried to sign a resolution reappointing Nancy Belsby to a 6-year term on the Water Conservancy Board.

**RESOLUTION NO. 070889  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

IN THE MATTER OF REAPPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE WHITMAN COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY BOARD.

WHEREAS, water conservancy boards were authorized pursuant to SHB-1272 in 1997 and later amended by the legislature in 2001 to allow Water conservancy Board member to be increased from three to five; and,

WHEREAS, Whitman County is in need of refilling a position on the local Water Conservancy Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Whitman County Commissioners hereby reappoints:

**Nancy Belsby (Whitman County Resident) to a six-year term; and,**

This term begins **July 17, 2010** and expires **July 16, 2016**. The Water Conservancy Board will function within the geographical borders of Whitman County, exercising administrative powers enumerated within Title 90 R.C.W. and the attached bylaws; and,

Dated this **6th** day of **July 2010** and effective as of this date.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Greg Partch, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Patrick J. O'Neill, Commiss.

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Maribeth Becker, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

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Michael Largent, Commissioner

10:15 a.m. - Jeff Motley.

070890 8. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to adopt the 2011 budget calendar.

070891 9. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to adopt the 2011 budget goals and priorities.

070891A 10. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the 2011 program agreement for Juvenile consolidated services (06/30/11).

070892 11. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to sign DSHS Developmental Services program agreement #0963-68002-01 (06/30/11).

070893 12. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve an agreement between Whitman County and Himark Transport, Inc. for Developmental Services (06/30/11).

070894 13. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve an agreement between Whitman County and Palouse Industries for Developmental Services (06/30/11).

070895 14. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve a lease agreement between Whitman County and Palouse Industries, Inc.

070895A 15. A letter was received from the Whitman County Noxious Weed Control Board regarding two positions on the Board.

070896 16. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to accept the resignation of Nichole Eaton and authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of appreciation to Ms. Eaton for her service on the Whitman County Noxious Weed Board.

070897 17. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to reappoint George "Bud" Mills, Jr. to a 4-year

**BOCC MINUTES-07/06/10**

term on the Whitman County Noxious Weed Board representing District 2. Mr. Mills' term will expire 12/31/13.

**070898** 18. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to appoint Jim Druffel to a 4-year unexpired term on the Whitman County Noxious Weed Board representing District 5. Mr. Druffel's term will expire 12/31/11.

**070899** 19. A copy of the Salary Commission's letter to the Auditor regarding 2011 elected official salaries was received. The Commission recommended no changes for 2011.

**070900** 20. Notice was received from the Department of Commerce stating the 2007 CDBG public service grant #07-64007-011 has been completed in accordance with contract specifications.

**070901** 21. Notice was received from the Department of Commerce stating the 2008 CDBG public service grant #08-64008-011 has been completed in accordance with contract specifications.

**070902** 22. The Whitman County 2008 audit report conducted by the State Auditor's Office was received.

**070903-070904** 23. Commissioners Partch and O'Neill were served by the Sheriff with recall letters filed by Roger Whitten.

**070905** 24. A letter was received from the Auditor revoking any previous consent, implied or otherwise that allowed any department other than the Auditor's Office to prepare the county's annual finance report and duties related to the budgeting process.

**070906** 25. An executed copy of the interlocal agreement between the City of Lamont and Whitman for adjudication of civil violations was received.

**070907** 26. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

**10:30 a.m. - Recess.**

**11:00 a.m. - Mark Storey, Public Works Director.**

Present: Phil Meyer, Alan Thomson, Iris Mayes, Joe Smillie, Sarah Mason and Jeff Motley.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Engineering Division:**

**BOCC MINUTES-07/06/10**

**070908** 1. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to adopt the amended Construction program for 2010.

**Solid Waste Division:**

**070909** 2. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** that the grant application data form with the Department of Ecology for \$9,300 be signed as presented (12/30/10).

**070909A** 3. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize a call for bids for the Aune Bridge upon receipt of approval from the federal government.

**D070909B** 4. The Director shared photos of the completed Curtis Bridge replacement project.

**Planning Division:**

**070910** 5. The official transmittal for proposed revisions to Whitman County Code Chapter 19.10-Agricultural District, as it relates to Butte Protection areas received from the Planner. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to set a public hearing to take place public comment on amending the Whitman County Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 19.10) eliminating the butte protection language under Section 19.10.060(2)(ix)(2), to be held in this room at 2:00 p.m. on July 19, 2010.

**070911** 6. The official transmittal for proposed revisions to Whitman County Code Chapter 19.06 and 19.61 as it relates to a hearing examiner was received from the Planner. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to set a public hearing to take public comment on amending the Whitman County Zoning Ordinance (Chapters 19.06 and 19.61) allowing for a hearing examiner to conduct all conditional use applications for commercial non-residential energy facilities to be held in this room at 3:00 p.m. on July 19, 2010.

**070912** 7. Proposed additional hearing examiner language currently in review by the Prosecutor was received with respect to Section 19.06.050(4) - SEPA Appeals as follows:

"In instances where a Hearing Examiner hears and decides an application for a conditional use permit, the Hearing Examiner shall also hear and decide any appeal from the final threshold SEPA determination of the responsible county official under SEPA and Whitman Code 9.04 or any adequacy of an EIS as allowed by Whitman County Code 9.04.085."

**Solid Waste Division:**

**BOCC MINUTES-07/06/10**

**D070912A 8.** Whitman County received the "Good Neighbor Award" by Washington State University for participation in the "Move Out-Pitch In" program.

**Maintenance Division:**

**D070912B 9.** Phil Meyer reported 21 miles of county seal coating has been completed to date. Once this project is completed, the maintenance crew will move on to contracted city/town road work.

**11:15 a.m. - Wawawai-Pullman Road Overlay Project (Part 1)**

Present: Mark Storey, Phil Meyer, Julie Edgeman, Jeff Marshall, Alan Thomson, Iris Mayes, Joe Smillie, Sarah Mason, Jeff Motley and 2 other bidders.

**070913** The following bids were received for the Wawawai-Pullman Road overlay project #9010-7 (Part 1).

<b>BIDDER</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Central Washington Asphalt, Inc., Moses Lake, WA	\$ 872,248.96
Poe Asphalt Paving, Inc., Pullman/Clarkston, WA	\$ 868,291.29
Motley-Motley, Inc., Pullman, WA	\$1,057,748.29

The commissioners will make an award at 2:00 p.m.

**11:30 a.m. - Recess.**

**1:30 p.m. - Mike Berney, Greater Columbia Behavioral Health (GCBH).**

**D070913A** Mr. Berney reported on the July 1<sup>st</sup> GCBH meeting as follows:

**070914 1.** Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Agility Recovery Solutions: This PSA was reviewed by the Information Services Committee as part of GCBH's disaster recovery plan required by the State. The committee felt this was a very cost effective way to cover this need and voted unanimously to recommend approval by the Board of Directors. Mr. Berney said Whitman County voted in favor of authorizing the Chair to sign this PSA passing unanimously.

**D070914A 2.** GCBH census at Eastern State Hospital: For the first time ever GCBH has been using more beds at ESH than it is allotted. Currently the over usage is centered in Benton and Franklin Counties. The Funding Committee was charged with developing a recommendation for how to pay for penalties associated with this over usage.

**D070914B 3.** Data Quality and Consistency: Over the next several months GCBH, Member Counties and Providers will be focusing a great deal of time and attention making sure that our service data is making it all the way

**BOCC MINUTES-07/06/10**

to the State and that it is as consistent as possible. This information is used to set payment rates per eligible within the mental health system. The new rates will require that the mental health delivery system be as efficient as possible if we do not want major cuts to consumer services. The new review period began July 1<sup>st</sup> and will run through June 30, 2011

**D070914C 4.** Health Care Reform as it relates to funding: As part of health care reform the Office of the Inspector General is increasing their focus on not allowing Medicaid or Medicare dollars, directly or indirectly, to go to providers (all kinds) who have been precluded (i.e. debarred) from receiving this type of funding. This increased focus is being interpreted as requiring that employees and those with some control over agency's that receive Medicaid/Medicare funding be checked monthly to make sure they are not listed in a Debarment database. In Washington County Commissioners are being defined as having enough control in the mental health and other systems that receive federal funding to be covered by this directive. Currently it looks like the most efficient way to accomplish this check is to report the required information to the GCBH Regional Office and have them do the monthly check electronically.

**D070914D 5.** Amendments to the GCBH/DSHS, Medicaid and State-only, Contracts: These amendments updated the rates paid by DSHS and added a number of new requirements. New wording on Incident reporting had been part of this amendment but was temporarily removed to allow for further discussion. Whitman County voted to authorize the Chair to sign these amendments and passed unanimously.

**D070914E 6.** DSHS moved to a new integrated system called "Provider One System". Because GCBH information is not coming through the Provider One System just yet, payments to GCBH could be delayed.

**1:50 p.m. - Recess.**

**2:00 p.m. - Wawawai-Pullman Road Overlay Project (Part 1).**

Present: Mark Storey, Robin Cocking and Steve Krigbaum.

**070915** Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to award the bid for Wawawai-Pullman Road Overlay/Wawawai Road Overlay No. 9010-7 (Part 1) to Poe Asphalt for a total bid amount of \$868,291.29.

**2:05 p.m. - Recess.**

**2:15 p.m. - Board Business Continued/New/Old Business.**

Present: Gary Libey, Robin Cocking and Steve Krigbaum.

**BOCC MINUTES-07/06/10**

**070916 27.** Gary Libey presented all pertinent documents for the purchase of one acre of land from Patricia Scott Martin for the Lamont radio tower site in the amount of \$10,000 plus costs. In doing so, Whitman and Lincoln Counties and Lincoln County Emergency Communications would release their current easements with Ms. Martin. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize the Chairman to sign all documents related to the purchase of the Lamont radio tower site property from Patricia Scott Martin.

Steve Krigbaum stated because Lincoln County will be foregoing their lease with Ms. Martin, tower space will be provided to them Whitman County at no charge. If Spokane County desires tower space, they will be charged a fee.

**2:30 p.m. - Recess.**

**D070916A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Monday, July 12, 2010 at 9:20 a.m.** Chairman Greg Partch, Patrick J. O'Neill and Michael Largent Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

**9:20 a.m. - Meeting Reconvened/Board Business Continued.**

Present: Kelli Campbell, Joe Smillie, Kelsey Samuels and Sarah Mason.

**D070916B 29.** Commissioner Largent questioned the agenda changes. Chairman Partch said that was due to discussions in workshops being reported as decisions and he thought it was just easier to meet in Chambers.

In their discussion on Thursday, they clearly did not make a decision when they discussed the Finance Specialist position. However reported, the decision is made in Chambers.

Chairman Partch said he sent an email to the other members Friday about holding their workshops in Chambers in the event a decision needs to be made.

As far as Commissioner Largent knew, the only item the Board is discussing is the Finance Director position being moved to the Auditor's office. Chairman Partch wished to expand the discussion to other positions.

Until he has an opportunity to visit with the Auditor when she returns, Commissioner Largent would be unprepared to discuss the validity of the various financial positions.

**BOCC MINUTES-07/06/10**

Chairman Partch said time is of the essence; the Auditor needs the position and the Board needs its position. He felt beginning the discussion now in Chambers is the way to precede. Discussing the issues in Chambers doesn't necessarily mean the Board is prepared to make decisions. The draft overview is pending much outside information the Board doesn't have.

**070917** Chairman Partch said the overview is a starting point for discussions today for moving forward with a decision of some sort next week. The overview breaks down all 4 positions in the Finance Department. Financially, the draft remains at a neutral revenue level for 2010. Commissioner Largent said he would be happy to review the draft.

**070918** Commissioner O'Neill read the following prepared statement:

1. "Commissioners are elected by the people of the county to represent them as a team player to solve county problems.
2. After I was elected in November 2008, I received a call from Commissioner Largent and he asked me to join the team and be a team player. I've worked hard to be a team player and remain true to my personal convictions and uphold my responsibilities as an elected official of the people of Whitman County.
3. Commissioner Largent, it seems to be that you must have your own plan to move forward in terms of rebuilding the Finance Department. I have not received any communication from you about this since the department of the Finance Director. It also seems to me that you are stalling progress toward solutions. Having several study groups may be fine if we had time on our side but we don't. I believe that you've met with various people to discuss the finance issues. But I have not heard from you and so I have no idea what your intentions are about moving forward.
4. I have no problem when you disagree, that is fine. But now is time for ALL 3 commissioners to work together as a team to tackle the important work before us. We need to find good solutions to the finance problems at hand. There are many policy decisions that must be made in the near term that will require everyone at the table.
5. I want your valuable input, ideas and information brought to the table for discussion on the best way to move forward.
6. This is not about one's personal feelings. It is about how to best resolve these problems efficiently, effectively and promptly for the overall benefit and future of the citizens of the county and our county staff. We need a good plan that works now.
7. It is imperative that we get our financial house in order now. It is also imperative that New World be operational as soon as possible.
8. As Chair of the Board and liaison to the Finance Department for the past two years, you have been well aware of what the finance problems are. You have not been left in the dark on the real issues at hand.

**BOCC MINUTES-07/06/10**

If anything, I feel that you could have been more transparent and informative about finance department problems you've known about.

9. We must move forward as a working team. We must have real discussions, while recognizing the law, and we must come to a team consensus. I am prepared to work with you as a team player.
10. It is up to you to decide on how you personally want to participate in this process. Just remember that your actions speak louder than your words."

Commissioner O'Neill said that is how he feels about this whole thing.

Commissioner Largent responded to Commissioner's O'Neill's statement.

1. Clarified his interest in the Finance Department occurred basically of his background and noticing there were some things he wanted to work on; they did and they saw results.
2. As far as transparent and informative, those issues the commissioners should know about, he told about.
3. As far as having a plan, he doesn't. However, he has a general idea and he thought those plans should be collaborative and not unilateral.
4. You are accusing me of not being cooperative, and that is anything but the case. What you feel is your own business, but he is going to move ahead in the best interest of the county, even if it is a lone vote.
5. He found Commissioner O'Neill's statement lacking in fact, disingenuous and self-serving.

Commissioner O'Neill disagreed his statement was self-serving adding, he hadn't received any information from Commissioner Largent since June 1<sup>st</sup> on how we want to move forward and discuss this stuff. That is why he put it in print. He is not making any decisions but rather telling him exactly how he feels and we've got to move forward. He didn't say he didn't want his information, he said he did want it.

Commissioner Largent stated he was all for moving forward collaboratively across this county. It is difficult to make structural changes without full information and sometimes the Board of Commissioners always has that, even though it is their responsibility. Therefore, when he seeks input outside the Board it is a healthy thing, as is Commissioner O'Neill entitled to by right to do so. Concerning all of his discussions, he will not necessarily going to report to Commissioner O'Neill because not all of them are necessarily fruitful. There are many ideas to go through. This is a difficult decision. It has a lot of nuance and based on his experience with the Finance Department, he has a good idea of what that nuance is. One of the new ideas that came forward that has kind of changed things is the Auditor's withdrawal of her permission for the county commissioners to oversee the Finance Department. He would like to

**BOCC MINUTES-07/06/10**

work cooperatively with her as well as the Treasurer to staff this. He was all for discussions; he hasn't said they shouldn't have discussions. He is all for sharing information that he happens to believe is valuable to the Board of County Commissioners. But not all the information he has does he necessarily believes should be brought forth to the Board in his personal deliberations.

The draft put forward is a place to start. He would like to see both the Finance Director and County Administrator positions go forward at the same time. The draft lays out the job responsibilities.

Chairman Partch thought the board all agreed on moving forward. They weren't getting the job done in a workshop setting and suggested all the discussions be held in the Chambers where decisions can be made.

Commissioner Largent felt the Board should clarify prior to off the seat of our pants taking votes without the public first being made aware, and that the agenda is clear and transparent. The workshop environment is a discussion about opinion regardless of how it is reported and the commissioners say whether they are ready to make a decision or not and bring it forward for a vote.

Chairman Partch reiterated the Board needs to move forward. Commissioner Largent concurred and added that he wanted to be informed and collaborative in that process. He had no problem bringing the Finance Director position to a vote on Monday as previously discussed. Other outstanding questions for Commissioner Largent included whether a position should be moved to the Treasurer's office and whether creating an Administrative Services position is a good use of county money. It was previously thought to be about a half-time position. He hasn't had an opportunity to visit with the former Finance or Assistant Finance Directors on the position descriptions but intended to do so.

Chairman Partch had no issue with that but noted as pointed out in the RCW's, the commissioners have much more involvement in the county's finances and must move forward. Commissioner Largent again concurred they need a process that moves forward in an organized and collaborative manner.

**9:40 a.m.** - Kirk Suess.

Commissioner O'Neill said he previously presented budget numbers to the Board but didn't hear back from Commissioner Largent. Commissioner Largent thanked him but said the information did not require any action.

**D070918A 30.** Chairman Partch mentioned receipt of \$51,410 in PILT funds for 2010 which is a little more than anticipated. He checked with Finance to make sure this revenue was included in the 2010 budget.

070919 31. The Chairman read the email he sent to the other commissioners July 9<sup>th</sup> regarding the Finance Department and commissioner meeting days. He also suggested 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. be set aside on bi-Mondays strictly for commissioners.

9:50 a.m. - Bob Reynolds.

Commissioner Largent agreed that the financial issues are very important and they need to proceed, however, they may find that there is significant opinions or input from the other elected officials that will bear on these decisions which, to his way of thinking is quite critical. He hasn't, as Commissioner O'Neill may have eluded, made a predisposed decision. However, he would like enough information to decide initially whether this is a model that will work with the Treasurer and Auditor's offices and where the support is. He prefers to work very collaboratively and congenially with the other elected offices to get the job done in an efficient manner, both time-wise and financially. Input from the other electeds is very critical to his decision-making. At first glance the draft does not suggest there is any particular item he has a problem with. He wondered if the Administrative Services position is the best use of funds because previously that position worked with and augmented the Finance Department. The budgeting factor is that it was not a full time position as Ms. Cunningham made it clear to the Board. He suggested determining the general model quickly and then filling in the specific holes. If it is a matter of controlling the position because the Board doesn't believe they have a good working relationship with the Auditor, then the Board needs to work on that relationship because they may share that position due to the nature of budgeting. There are a limited amount of funds and much work coming with New World and the 2010 audit.

Discussion continued on the draft financial overview.

Commissioner Largent summarized:

1. One financial position moved to the Treasurer's office
2. Commissioners fiduciary responsibility-position under Board or Auditor

The commissioners seem to be in agreement that whatever functions were being handled by the Finance Department be funded at the same level until they see any benefits from the New World conversion.

The question is the creation of a new administrative services position that ties into some of the other position duties.

Commissioner O'Neill said the Board has a far greater obligation for finances. He has talked to other elected officials, department heads,

## BOCC MINUTES-07/06/10

staff and the one remaining employee in Finance about the best way to move forward. He has reviewed the draft and he thought it spelled out much good information, but in order to move forward, the #1 issue is to get New World up and running sooner than later with everyone on-board thereby making the System Administrative position very important to move forward.

Chairman Partch clarified the System Administrative position has already been created and some financial responsibilities have been transferred to that position. The entire Finance Department is being split up. They wanted to look at every responsibility and determine what position would be responsible for each responsibility in the future. Inclusion of the System Administrative position in the draft financial overview is to show how the county remains revenue neutral for 2010 and covering all areas of responsibility. Financial oversight is very well defined by the RCW's.

Commissioner Largent pointed out financial reporting and budgeting albeit related are not one in the same. As far as the responsibility for statement accuracy and reporting, it is his understanding that the vast majority is the responsibility of the Auditor.

The Board's primary function is budgetary and the Board must retain those tools necessary to perform their fiduciary responsibilities for the benefit of the public.

Chairman Partch disagreed with Commissioner Largent's interpretation of the Auditor's responsibilities. He added the commissioners actually have the fiduciary responsibility for most of it and that is why it is so important to review the draft, understand the Board and Auditor's responsibilities and how to best work together. The Chairman then read excerpts from RCW's regarding the Auditor/Commissioners financial responsibilities.

Commissioner Largent indicated the Auditor basically compiles the financial data from the accounting system. One of the difficulties in meeting the statute if full in-house capacity is given to budgeting and auditing is that there are a great deal of built in inefficiencies that create the checks and balances of government. Both independent electeds have responsibilities, some of which overlap. As a consequence, figuring out where responsibilities will most efficiently reside will be a difficult decision to make quickly and competently while balancing the two demands.

Chairman Partch said the Auditor has given her consent to allow the commissioners to complete the 2008 and 2009 financials. In order to do so, the Board needs to contract with the organization that has done the bulk of the work, Anderson-Peretti. Funds have been included in the draft financial overview. All members were agreeable with considering a new proposal from Anderson-Peretti for completing 2008-2009 financials.

**BOCC MINUTES-07/06/10**

**10:30 a.m. - Wawawai-Pullman Road Overlay Project (Part 2).**

Present: Mark Storey, Kirk Suess, Bob Reynolds, Joe Smillie, Kelsey Samuels and Sarah Mason.

**070920** Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to award the bid for Wawawai-Pullman Road Overlay/Wawawai Road Overlay No. 9010-8-9000-12 to Poe Asphalt Paving, Inc. for a total bid amount of \$342,009.24.

**10:35 a.m. - Kirk Suess.**

**D070920A 1.** Kirk Suess mentioned Steptoe Butte is a natural landmark administered by the National Park Service since 1965. 150 acres belong to the State of Washington for road right-of-way and the remaining acreage, the Butte itself, belongs to the Roberts Family, LLC. It was Mr. Suess' opinion this ownership eliminates any possibility of windmills on or in near proximity of the Butte.

**D070920B 2.** Thank you for conducting open and respectful arguments, disagreements and discussions. His concern is the county doesn't have a problem with financial duplicity.

**10:40 a.m. - Recess.**

**11:05 a.m. - Meeting Reconvened/Board Business Continued.**

Present: Kelli Campbell, Kirk Suess, Joe Smillie, Kelsey Samuels and Sarah Mason.

**D070920C 30.** The commissioners continued their discussion and review of the various positions included in the draft financial overview.

**070921-070922** Chairman Partch also shared copies of emails from Esther Wilson who, at his request, provided information about the Auditor and County Administration financial responsibilities per the RCW's.

Commissioner Largent wondered why Ms. Wilson had not included him in the emails, the same as she did the other two commissioners. The Chairman said he had requested some information be sent to him and other information be sent to all members. He was certain there was no ill-intent, but nonetheless, he will look into the situation.

Commissioner Largent asked if one of the positions involves transferring Ms. Wilson to the Auditor's Office or another department. Chairman Partch said she has applied for the IT position but he didn't think Ms. Nelson had reached a decision yet. Commissioner Largent added, "Even after the

**BOCC MINUTES-07/06/10**

activity with his computer?" The Chairman said no responsibility was found on either side and he didn't think that has anything to do with Ms. Wilson submitting her name for the IT vacancy.

Joe Smillie of the Whitman County Gazette interjected that Ms. Nelson has decided to hire Esther Wilson for the position as of last Tuesday.

Commissioner Largent voiced his concerns about the trust level and integrity of IT. If the Department Head is good with the selection, Chairman Partch said he was too adding further discussion can be held when the board order approving the hiring of this position is submitted.

Commissioner O'Neill proposed additional meeting days next week. In addition to Monday, he offered Wednesday and Friday in order to resolves some of these issues. The Chairman will consider the proposal.

**11:55 a.m. - Recess.**

**1:00 p.m. - Board Business Continued/Executive Session.**

Present: Gary and Valerie Hunt and Kelli Campbell.

**070923 31.** Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to go into executive session with the above individuals until 2:00 p.m. in accordance with RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) for matters related to negotiations.

**2:00 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Adjourn.**

**D070923A** Commissioner O'Neill **moved** to adjourn the **July 6 and 12, 2010** 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 **July 19, 2010**. The foregoing action made this **12th** day of **July 2010**.

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

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MARIBETH BECKER, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

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GREG PARTCH, CHAIRMAN  
Board of County Commissioners