

Minutes for August 1, 2005

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064288 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **August 1, 2005** at **9:00 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, G.R. "Jerry" Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

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

Present: Bob Reynolds, Kelli Campbell and Sharron Cunningham.

064289 1. Items discussed included a proposed reclassification, Juvenile personnel, Whitcom insurance, District Court funding, Port request, Sheriff's request and ADO contract update. No action taken.

10:05 a.m. - Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Tammy Lewis.

D064289A 2. Motion by Commissioner Finch to approve the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

064290 3. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **179536-179612** for **\$42,997.22** approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	14,748.08
117	Boating Safety	309.00
118	Inmate Welfare	364.75
119	Emergency Services	15,946.78
123	Paths & Trails	300.00
127	Drug Enforcement	47.16
135	Prosecutor's Stop Grant	312.27
136	Electronic Monitoring	161.00
141	Washington Housing SHB 2060	2,544.02
320	Cap. Project/Out. Sources (Bond)	2,979.69
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	33.37
510	Photocopier Revolving	129.10
660	Whitcom-General-660.911.000	736.81
660	Whitcom-Grant Funding-660.911.001	4,385.19

064291 4. July 25, 2005 minutes approved.

064292-064295 5. Personnel board orders approved.

064296 6. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the misdemeanor/gross misdemeanor contract with the City of

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Pullman for 2004-2005. According to the Chairman, negotiations will soon begin for 2006.

064297 Will appear after #064301.

064298 7. Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to table selection of the ADO contractor for two weeks (August 15th).

064299 8. An ordinance was received from the City of Pullman confirming the annexation of property west of Sunnyside Park and north of Wawawai Road on Sunnyside Hill.

064300 9. The proposed Big Sky Subdivision preliminary plat was received from the City of Pullman.

064301 10. A copy of a request before the Pullman City Council on August 2nd was received regarding the "urban reserve area" in Whitman County.

10:20 a.m. - Byron Bedirian, Deputy Prosecutor.

064297 11. The Chairman stated they have before them a ballot issue. Mr. Bedirian said the issue must pertain to a budgetary emergency before the Board can proceed, which it does and it is still within the time frame to submit the proposition to the Auditor for inclusion on the September ballot.

Chairman Partch explained the Elected and Appointed Team (EAT), in response to the commissioners' request for solutions to the budget problem, provided some immediate recommendations in April. As a long-term solution, EAT provided two revenue enhancement options for the Board to consider, property and sales tax. The proposed proposition deals with sales tax, increasing it by 1/10 of 1% raising the county's current sales tax from 7.6% to 7.7%. The state retains 6.5% of this amount leaving the county 1.1% of the sales tax collected. If passed, this proposition would allow the county to retain 1.2%. These funds could only be used for adult jail and juvenile detention purposes. He pointed out the difference between the jail (corrections) and the Sheriff's Department (Road Deputies). This does not mean more officers on the road, but it would free up money in the general fund, which is how the Sheriff's Department is funded. The county is to the point that services must be cut across the board in every department to cover the projected \$900,000 deficit. Passage of this proposition would not resolve the entire deficit issue, but the \$300,000 generated would supplement a portion of the gap. Even with this, the county may still have some hard decisions to make down the road.

Commissioner Wigen commented that the elected and appointed officials have signed on as supporting this proposal. This increase would amount to:

\$.01 for every \$10.00 or
\$.10 for every \$100.00 or
\$1.00 for every \$1,000.00.

Commissioner Finch said this proposition would not affect everyone very much based on the fact our citizens don't spend all their money in Whitman County. Secondly, it would be fair to say that this group of commissioners hasn't been very excited about increasing taxes. The reality is passage of Initiative 695 that cut taxes has come home to roost. Prior to the initiative passing, the state provided

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\$600,000 to the county for the Sheriff's Department but that funding is no longer available.

This proposition gives our citizens the opportunity to say they are willing to pay a little more sales tax or prefer further cuts. Ultimately, this is the citizens' decision. The commissioners are just looking for direction. The commissioners are not comfortable about asking this of the citizens, but it is something the elected and appointed officials brought to them for placement on the ballot and he would personally support the proposition.

Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to sign the resolution as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 063297

BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the costs associated with incarcerating criminals - both juveniles and adults - keep rising steeply every year, along with the costs of maintaining and staffing the jail; and,

WHEREAS, the costs associated with maintaining and staffing the juvenile detention facilities locally and regionally continue to rise; and,

WHEREAS, the County's revenue has not kept up with the rising costs;

WHEREAS, the Whitman County Board of County Commissioners has considered the budget forecasts for the upcoming year, and the Board's budget/administrative services director has informed the Board that a budget deficit is forecast; and,

WHEREAS, the County is required to maintain a balanced budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Whitman County Commissioners deems a budgetary emergency to exist, and as provided for in RCW 29A.04.321,

HEREBY RESOLVES to call a special county election, to coincide with the upcoming primary election on September 20, 2005, and the County Auditor is requested to place a proposition in substantially the following form on that ballot, to be voted upon by the voters of Whitman County:

**SPECIAL ELECTION - PROPOSITION NO. 1
Adult Jail and Juvenile Detention Sales and Use Tax**

The Whitman County Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution No. 064297 concerning a proposition to authorize a sales and use tax, in addition to any other taxes authorized by law, of one-tenth of one percent (10 cents for every \$100.00) to be used solely for equipping, operating, maintaining, repairing, remodeling, reequipping, financing, designing, acquiring, constructing, and improvement of juvenile detention facilities and adult jails that house inmates being held, charged, or convicted/adjudicated guilty of misdemeanor and felony acts, as authorized by RCW 82.14.350. Should this proposition be:

[] Approved

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[] Rejected

Dated this 1st day of August 2005.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Greg Partch, Chairman

G.R. Finch, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Les Wigen, Commissioner

D064301A 12. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

10:30 a.m. - Dr. Linda Kirk Fox, WSU Extension Dean and Director.

Present: Janet Schmidt and Tammy Lewis.

D064301B Dr. Fox began by providing her background. She believed WSU Extension continues to be locally responsive. By networking through multi-county operations and through the land grant system across the county they bring the best of both WSU and all the land grants to the issues identified as local priorities.

She felt this was a great opportunity to discuss some of the strengths of the Whitman County/WSU partnership that she appreciated and acknowledged as a very important partnership that she would like to see continue.

While Dr. Fox was acutely aware of budget struggles at all levels, local, state and federal, she also recognized the critical nature of the Partnership as a resource base. The partnership supports faculty, staff and allows Extension to acquire more competitive grants and special contracts.

Commissioner Wigen shared his appreciation and good working relationship with Extension staff.

Chairman Partch said Extension is important to the county. This is a very difficult time for the county as the commissioners just passed a resolution asking the citizens for more taxes. Unfortunately, Extension is non-mandated, but very critical to the county in areas such as the newly acquired Certified Public Officials (CPO) training previously operated through Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

Dr. Fox said Whitman County has the advantage of being in the same county as WSU making them much more assessable to contract for outside resources and research from various divisions within the university system.

Chairman Partch spoke about the importance of Extension's involvement with the Palouse Empire Fair, 4-H, agriculture and the Fishing Kids event. Although funding

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for the Fishing Kids program was inadvertently cut, Representatives Cox and Buri are working to restore the funding.

Commissioner Finch expressed his appreciation to WSU Extension staff.

Dr. Fox also talked about the success of the 10 WSU Extension learning centers throughout the state. She mentioned her attendance at the upcoming September WSAC meeting and offered her assistance to the county.

The commissioners thanked Dr. Fox for taking the time to meet with them.

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

Present: Mark Storey, Tammy Lewis and Megan Doyle.

Action Items:

064302 1. Mark Storey presented his report on the Palouse Cove Road speed limit recommending the speed limit on various portions of the road ranging from 25-55 MPH.

064303 Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** that the resolution to establish the speed limit on Palouse Cove Road be signed as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 064303

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Whitman County, Washington in the matter of changing the speed limit on a certain county road pursuant to R.C.W. 46.61.415;

WHEREAS, the BOARD has directed the County Engineer to prepare a report regarding the existing conditions along the Palouse Cove Road #5150, from the Town of Palouse to the Idaho State Line, and,

WHEREAS, the BOARD has reviewed and accepted the contents of the engineering report,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the maximum speed limit on the Palouse Cove Road be changed as follows: Engineers Station 27+17 to 30+50, 25 mph, Engineers Station 30+50 to 44+00, 35 mph, and Engineers Station 44+00 to 223+25 (Idaho State Line), 55 mph. The changes shall be implemented on August 1, 2005. It is further resolved that the road shall be posted with fixed signs indicating the maximum speed.

ADOPTED this 1st day of August 2005.

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

Solid Waste Division:

D064303A 2. The Recycling Coordinator offered the annual competitive recycling grant to all cities/towns. Rosalia and Garfield submitted requests for the \$3,000 grant. Rosalia was chosen as the recipient of the grant to install a composting facility for the town.

Maintenance Division:

D064303B 3. Mr. Dunford commented over the next month, the department would have varying amounts of staff gone for harvest and vacations.

Engineering Division:

D064303C 4. The Engineer noted Local enhancement dollars would be available again for things such as bike paths, parking lots and pedestrian enhancements. These dollars are administered through the RTPD program comprised of Whitman, Asotin, Columbia and Garfield counties. Approximately \$300,000 is available for these types of project by the local communities within the quad county area as well as the counties themselves.

11:20 a.m. - Recess.

11:30 a.m. - Bev Welch, Finance Director/Information Services Manager.

Present: Adam Roberts, Kris Bunch and Brandon Birch.

D064303D 1. Kris Bunch requested the decision on the financial software RFP be tabled for one week to allow time to check references. He added Information Services would be putting out another RFP for tax collection and the Assessor's portion of the software.

Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to postpone the decision on the financial software system RFP until August 8th.

064304 2. Adam Roberts explained the Health Department has a file cabinet full of birth and death certificates that are deteriorating. The suggestion is to purchase a scanner and computer that will handle scanning the certificates (approximately \$1,000 plus shipping). The original certificates would then be moved to another location for safer storage or destroyed. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the Public Health Asset Acquisition request contingent on checking with the Auditor to determine if Document Preservation funds could be used.

064305 3. The second request dealt with a black and white laser jet printer for the Auditor's new voter registration system. The Auditor would like to exchange this printer for a color printer in order to produce brochures and other elections related materials. Information Services would like to replace their financial reports printer and purchase the b/w printer from the Auditor with Asset Acquisition funds. The difference between the cost of the b/w and color printer will be absorbed by the Auditor's elections grant. Commissioner Finch **moved**,

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Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the Information Services Asset Acquisition request for a printer in the amount of \$2,067.06.

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

1:00 p.m. - Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.

Present: Dane Dunford, Mark Storey and Mark Bordsen.

D064305A 13. Items discussed included Public Works related issues. No action taken.

3:00 p.m. - Tim Myers, Parks and Developmental Services Director.

D064305B Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to go into executive session with the above individual until 4:00 p.m. for personnel matters.

4:00 p.m. - Return to Open Session.

4:00 p.m. - Fran Martin, Public Health/Emergency Management Director.

064306 1. A copy of Dr. Moody's letter sent to the Mayor of Rosalia was received regarding the town's site and development plan for the "100 Years of Motorcycles Rally" slated for August 20th in Rosalia.

064307 2. The Director presented an amendment to the Tetra Tech contract for the Natural Hazardous Mitigation Plan. The county received a planning grant from FEMA who is allowing the county to go back to November 1, 2004 to submit requests for reimbursement of expenses.

The mitigation plan partners agreed the additional funds would be used to buy each of them one-on-one technical assistance. Under this phase, Tetra Tech will build upon the draft Hazard Inventory/Vulnerability Assessment (HIVA) prepared by the University of Washington using HAZUS (available technology) to provide a GIS based foundation that can be utilized by the County and its partnerships in all facets of planning and policy making within the planning area. The primary objective of this phase will be to create a (HIVA) that will assist the partnership in prioritizing mitigation strategies based on vulnerability, and aid them in identifying projects that will maximize the benefits versus the costs.

The goal is to complete the two-volume plan by the end of December and have the Washington State Emergency Management Division and FEMA proofread it. Once completed, all partners will be eligible for FEMA funding. After which time, the plan will then be reviewed every 5 years.

064308 Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve signing the (Tetra Tech) Tt/KCM Prime Notice-To-Proceed by the Chairman.

4:20 p.m. - Recess.

5:30 p.m. - Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop (Public Service Building).

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Present: Members of the Planning Commission, Dane Dunford and Mark Bordsen.

D064308A 14. The main item of discussion was Rural Residential. No action taken.

8:30 p.m. - Adjournment.

D064308B Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **August 1, 2005** 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 **August 8, 2005**. The foregoing action made this **1st** day of **August 2005**.

ss/ G.R. FINCH, Commissioner

ss/ LES WIGEN, Commissioner

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners