

## Minutes for August 16, 2010

Disclaimer: This is only a web copy of the Whitman County Commissioners' Monday Meeting Minutes. Official minutes may be obtained by contacting the Whitman County Commissioners office at (509) 397-5240.

**071018 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Monday, August 16, 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/Pledge of Allegiance/Board Business.**

Present: Bob Reynolds and Chris Nelson.

**D071018A 1. Motion** by Commissioner Largent to accept the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner O'Neill and **carried**.

**071019 2.** August 2, 2010 minutes approved.

**071020-071022 3.** Personnel board orders approved.

**9:10 a.m. - Karl Johanson.**

**071023 4.** Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to reappoint Dave Nails and Josh Powers to 2-year terms on the Classification Committee. Both terms will expire 08/01/12.

**071024 5.** Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to enter into a professional services agreement with Sharon Roberts for New World data entry.

**9:15 a.m. - Joe Smillie.**

**071025 6.** Discussion regarding a Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) vehicle grant for the Unincorporated Transportation Benefit Area (UTBA) vanpooling program was held. Mr. Johanson said when the UBBA was established for vanpooling there were enough people who wanted to use the service. Through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Whitman County and Council on Aging & Human Services (COA&HS) authority was given to apply for vehicle grants. No funding was available at the time but now WSDOT has opened the window for new vehicle grant applications. COA&HS applied for two vehicles at an 80%/20% request. This is their only source to apply for vehicle grants. There is a possibility they may be trading off operating the vanpool from the Fairgrounds to the Dam based on what happens with Columbia County, new wind farm extension, etc. This is the only opportunity for COA&HS to

**BOCC MINUTES-08/16/10**

apply for vehicle funding between now and the end of the biennium. If they have no riders they will not purchase any vehicles.

Mr. Johanson said the question before the Board is who should sign the contract. Through the previous rural mobility program, Dane Dunford signed the documents because the vehicles were included on the county's inventory. This particular document confirms funds are available at the local level. Mr. Johanson said he is charged with completing all required reports and reporting to the commissioners. At this stage, he thought he could sign the contract but he had no preference. When the vehicles arrive, the title will rest with the state and the County will be named as the registered owner and leased to Council on Aging Senior Transportation (COAST).

Commissioner Largent said since the county has an MOU with COA&HS, he suggested Mr. Johanson sign the document and Commissioner O'Neill concurred. The Chairman recommended the documents be reviewed by the Prosecutor for his legal opinion.

If it is determined Mr. Johanson is not authorized to sign the documents associated with the purchase of vanpool vehicles, Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize the Chairman to sign the necessary documents.

**9:20 a.m.** - Kelsey Samuels.

**071026** 7. The 2010 legislative revisions to E911 were discussed. Chairman Partch noted if the county doesn't increase the excise tax for switched, radio access and interconnected voice over internet protocol services lines from \$.50 (fifty cents) to \$.70 (seventy cents) per line, the county could no longer receive state funding for E911. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to proceed with the hearing process.

**071027** 8. Having reviewed all bids for renovating the Harrison Building, Bob Reynolds indicated James W. Elmer Construction submitted the low bid of \$489,040 w/tax and requested a letter of intent to award the bid to James W. Elmer Construction. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to forward a letter of intent to award as recommended.

**071028-071029** 9. Information as to the eligibility/ineligibility status of current Water Conservancy Board members Nancy Belsby/Ron Johnson was received from the Department of Ecology. The Chairman will contact Mr. Johnson regarding his ineligibility status.

**071030** 10. The 2011 calendar year regular motor vehicle fuel tax allocation factors and County Arterial Preservation program allocation factors was received from the County Road Administration Board.

**BOCC MINUTES-08/16/10**

**071031** 11. The Chairman signed the annual Quad Cities Drug Task Force equitable sharing agreement and certification.

**071032** 12. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

**D071032A** 13. The Chairman noted the "CGI Showcasing Whitman County" video should be ready to go on-line mid to late fall.

**9:55 a.m.** - Kathy Wolfe, Joe Reynolds, Joe Smillie, Jeslyn Lemke and Sarah Mason.

**071033** 14. Kathy Wolfe, Colfax FSA Director joined the meeting to explain the request for waiver to exclude the "continuous signup cropland" from the 25% cropland limit.

Chairman Partch noted a letter from Dennis Solbrack, one of the owners of Arrow Machinery opposing the request. Commissioner Largent commented that Mr. Sellback's letter is about general signup and not the continuous signup program.

Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion that the commissioners approve a cap waiver to exclude continuous signup cropland from the 25% cropland limit in Whitman County.

Kathy Wolfe confirmed Commissioner Largent's inquiry that the request is for continuous signup only and not raising the general signup cap and what the FSA Whitman County Committee (COC) is recommending. He didn't view this request to be much of a question because continuous CRP has been a valuable, economic diversification for the farmers as well as having significant environmental benefits. He sees this program as a win-win for everyone; the farmers, community and environment.

Ms. Wolfe agreed with Commissioner Largent's perspective. The only area of concern is that by moving those acres out from under the cap it does allow more general acres within the cap which is currently at 18.3%. Commissioner Largent stated there is no anticipation that the general signup will come to or exceed the cap based upon economic farm conditions in Whitman County plus numerous acres coming out of the program next year. Therefore, the CRP trend is reversing itself.

Ms. Wolfe said FSA is currently holding a general signup through August 27<sup>th</sup>. To date, participation has been minimal. She felt part of that is due to those who want to sign up in CRP are using the continuous program to their benefit as well and the reason there is less interest in the general signup program. There is no indication the 25% cap would be reached for the general signup. Ms. Wolfe reaffirmed the request is to exclude the continuous acres.

## **BOCC MINUTES-08/16/10**

Chairman Partch said he was not in favor of lifting the lid on the general signup and full farms going into the program. He didn't understand why this issue was before the commissioners since Whitman County is only at 18.3% still leaving a large margin. However, he had no problem with the continuous signup.

Ms. Wolfe said when it comes to general signup they have no indication at what point there may be a large sign up. Reaching the maximum limit could occur with one signup. It is a highly competitive program nationally and locally. The percentage limit is temporary going up and down due to CRP acres going in and coming out of the program. She pointed out the only limitation is on the general signup and not the continuous signup.

Commissioner Largent felt there was some confusion about what was being asked of the Board which is "the continuous buffer strip signup".

**071034** Commissioner O'Neill statement:

"The letter we received August 5, 2010 in regards to the CRP waiver to exclude continuous signup from the total CRP acreage within Whitman County. I have talked to many people about this issue that is before us. I believe that continuous signup is the original intent what CRP is supposed to do in helping farmers manage their land use. Continuous is all about limiting soil erosion, filter strips, buffer strips and land that may provide poor yields. Your costs are the same on high productive ground as they are on low production ground. When the CRP program changed in the mid 1980's to include whole farms, the total acreage in CRP in 1986 was 5 million acres nationally. By 1990 the total amount was at 40 million acres in CRP. Several people have told me that towns of Lacrosse and Endicott and other western areas of county suffered devastating economic disaster when CRP acres skyrocketed. It's the farms in Whitman County that bring stability to our region compared to other areas of the state and nation where the unemployment is high and business are struggling to remain open. We have some of the most productive soils in the nation.

The stated figure from FSA office is 18.3% of the total land in the county is in CRP 191,587 acres. To reach the 25% threshold another 70,315 acres would have to be added to CRP. In the last 25 years the county has never reached the maximum of 25%. Why should we change now, I don't want to see an increase in raising the 25% limit for the county. There many disadvantages if this happens; such as loss of jobs, a downturn in the business community, affecting school districts when citizens move away and the cost for the county continues at the same rate while our tax revenues will suffer as more ground is under the CRP program.

FSA office stated that approximately 50,000 acres will be u for renewal net year and the remaining acres will be up the following two years. I would hope that the Whitman County Committee (COC) could work on changing percentage of continuous acres to a higher number. In return they lower

## **BOCC MINUTES-08/16/10**

the percentage for the general sign up for CRP. I will vote nay in favor of the waiver."

Commissioner O'Neill said he specifically asked Ms. Wolfe at her office if the continuous acreage was removed from the 25% CRP will the cap remain at 25% and she said no. The general signup would be 25% but they could technically go over that percentage if more people were added to continuous. Overall, the 25% cap could be exceeded. With 70,000 acres left over and roughly 50,000 acres up for renewal next year, he didn't think the cap would be reached.

Commissioner Largent disagreed with the other commissioners of the understanding of what continuous signup is, what it will do and the temporary short term nature of losing a tool that is a benefit to our communities and our farmers. Supporting this initiative supports farmers in our communities, regardless of how it has been presented because we are talking about continuous signup.

Commissioner O'Neill said he has spoken with many farmers in his district and to several others as to how CRP has worked in the past and in the future and many people said "if the maximum percentage hasn't been reached, then if it ain't broke don't fix". If that was the case, Commissioner Largent wondered why the COC has brought up the continuous program initiative. Chairman Partch said he agreed with Commissioner O'Neill and did not hear the urgency for this request.

**071035** Chairman Partch said Dennis Solbrack's letter is a general statement about CRP but does include the impacts of the request. Commissioner Largent interjected, that has been the contention all along. He didn't think the conversation has presented the difference between the general and the buffer strip signup and that has been the problem with the understanding as articulated so far. Chairman Partch went on to read Mr. Solbrack's letter.

**071036** Chairman Partch then read his own prepared statement:  
"I have spent appreciable time over the last week, after being contacted by the FSA office, considering this request. For many years now I have been concerned about the CRP and its impacts on rural agriculture and Whitman County. In 1876, Adam Smith, recognized by many as the father of the free market economy system or capitalism as we know it today, said "When government diverts necessary resources to unproductive labor crisis results". This is one very large example. CRP in its original form in 1985 was supposed to protect "highly erodible areas" by means of taking those acres out of production by buffers and other conservation methods. What is being called "continuous areas" he had no problem supporting. However, I don't believe it should have included "full farm" signups which later happened. We now have almost 150,000 acres enrolled, a good portion being full farms of which are some of the most productive acres in the world being out of production. This has had serious impacts since its

## BOCC MINUTES-08/16/10

inception on our county and our communities, especially in the west where rainfall is more marginal and more acreage has been enrolled. This has had serious long term impacts. One, I am especially concerned about is who will be there to take over from our current aging farmer operators? In an economic showcase tour I led last week Alex McGregor, long time agri-businessman and respected spokesman for agriculture in Whitman County said, "The average age of our farmers currently is 57.5 years." The federal government through programs such as this that unfairly exclude potential young new operators has accelerated this alarming statistic. Now the federal government competes against those potential successors for the land they need to begin and build a successful career and life in farming. They do this by offering the landowners substantially higher payments than current market values. So we end up freezing new farmers out of the possibility of making a living through agriculture and thus not being able to live and raise their families here when we need them. There are many other concerns that I hold as well, such as inadequate weed control and how payment calculations are determined which I will not go into here at this time.

Back to the request though. I don't disagree with the COC but at this time I feel it unnecessary and still has many unanswered questions. As per the figures provided we are currently at 18.3% which leaves a margin of over 70,000 acres which I believe will easily accommodate near future expansion especially if the COC works towards getting changes towards decreasing general signups in lieu of increasing continuous acres. The request letter indicates this desire and I encourage and will help in any way I can in my capacity as county commissioner to achieve that goal. Also, based on what I read and what I've been able to ascertain in the short amount of time, I am reluctant to potentially saddle future commissioners with a hasty decision today, i.e. if we lift the cap is it to be open-ended? I have not heard anything of a new cap. Important decisions made in haste often are regretted. I consider this a long term extremely important decision. For these reasons I will vote no as to lifting the 25% cap. As I stated earlier I will be glad to work in the future with the COC towards a change to allow continuous acres to be expanded in place of future full farm participation. Thus, this will encourage rather than discourage a new generation of young farmers and their families to continue the past successful stewardship of some of the richest farmlands of our nation and of the world."

Commissioner Largent said the reason Whitman County doesn't have young farmers is because of the price of wheat, not CRP acres. The general economics of agriculture, which he served in economics at Washington State University (WSU), is the factor that has taken young farmers to different jobs that are less risky and higher paying, not CRP. Most farmers, including himself, struggle with the concept of full farm CRP which his father is a participant. As a side note, Commissioner Largent pointed out he doesn't own an acre. The continuous signup and the chance that a

## BOCC MINUTES-08/16/10

temporary boom will kick out an opportunity for diversification is a vote against our farm families and our communities, therefore he will vote yes.

Chairman Partch disagreed and felt the government competes against young farmers by unfairly setting a higher price than they can afford to pay themselves. The government doesn't take into account summer fallow acres, therefore they basically pay for two years in one and no landowner is going to that turn down. The government is paying full price as though the land is in full crop production every year. This has made a difference to young farmers or farmers that would like to expand. He believed this has pushed the average age and is one of the limiting factors about price too. He reiterated farmers shouldn't have to compete against the government and that is what is happening.

Commissioner Largent said being a finance major, having worked in agricultural economics and being a farmer himself, who has struggled with the economics of farming over the years, the CRP program as well as the deficiency payments and European, Canadian and Australian community involvement are market distorting. All government involvement is market distorting. They are talking about one narrow issue. They will not solve the continuance of CRP question with this vote. This is simply about buffer strips and allowing conservation methods to be targeted, applied and kept in the toll box for farm families and farm communities to do the best they can and keep farmers in business.

Chairman Partch again indicated he would be voting against the request because he didn't think a change is needed at this time and is ill-conceived to lift the cap at 25%. He thought they should work on adjusting the percentages when they reach 22-23%.

Commissioner O'Neill commented he was not voting against the farmers in his district or the people he represents in our county. He has spoken with many who fully agree the limit has never reached before and if it isn't broke, don't fix it.

**071037** Commissioner Largent voted **aye** and Commissioners O'Neill and Partch voted **nay**. **Motion failed.** The commissioners' official response was returned to the FSA office.

**071038 15.** Joe Reynolds spoke about the 2009 and 2010 Mental Health disbursement. He said when Mental Health split off from the County he contacted the Department of Revenue who told him the county no longer needed to levy property taxes for mental health, but the county still had to pay them. At that time he contacted Finance and was told everything would be taken care of.

After preparing the 2008 levy the County Treasurer inquired about the lack of Mental Health. The Finance Department was again contacted and he was advised it had been taken care of.

**BOCC MINUTES-08/16/10**

Upon inquiry by a state examiner he again contacted the Finance Department to verify that the issue had been resolved and was again assured it had been taken care of.

Mike Berney, Director of Palouse River Counseling Center (PRCC) recently contacted him to say PRCC has not received any payments from the county in the past two years. It was later learned the following is due PRCC: 2009-\$27,804.49 and 2010-\$28,610.05.

This disbursement is derived from the county levy. Funding is there but must be transferred via a budget amendment. This disbursement will be reflected in the current expense balance. Mr. Reynolds said he has spoken to the state and the best way to make sure this problem does not occur again is to put mental health funding back on as a levy item out of the county's \$1.80. The Assessor apologized for not following up sooner and assured the commissioners this would not happen again.

**10:55 a.m. - Recess.**

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

Present: Phil Meyer, Alan Thomson, Iris Mayes, Scott Zuger, Jeslyn Lemke and Sarah Mason.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Engineering Division:**

**070039** 1. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** that the contract between Whitman County and Poe Asphalt Paving, Inc. for the Wawawai-Pullman Road overlay project No. 9010-8/9000-12 be signed as presented (Phase 1).

**070040** 2. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** that the contract between Whitman County and Poe Asphalt Paving, Inc. for the Wawawai-Pullman Road overlay project No. 9010-7 be signed as presented (Phase 2).

**Solid Waste Division:**

**071041** 3. Information regarding the Whitman County Prescription and Over-the-County Drug Disposal Plan received from the Director.

**Maintenance Division:**

**D071041A** 4. Phil Meyer said many crew members are harvesting and the remainder of the force is grading/ditching.

**Planning Division:**

**071042** 5. The Chairman convened the hearing for a proposed zone change for the Colfax Grange from Agricultural District to Heavy Commercial.

**BOCC MINUTES-08/16/10**

Iris Mayes explained Colfax Grange purchased two new parcels and would like all their zoning to be consistent. Scott Zuger said it is a simple upgrade placing all their property in the heavy commercial district.

There being no further comments, the Chairman adjourned the hearing.

Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the Colfax Grange zone change of 11.16 acres from Agricultural to a Heavy Commercial District.

**ORDINANCE NO. 071042**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WHITMAN COUNTY ZONING MAP TO CHANGE THE ZONING FROM AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT TO HEAVY COMMERCIAL.**

BE IT ORDAINED and enacted by the Board of County Commissioners of Whitman County, State of Washington, it having been determined by the Board after hearing the Recommendations and Findings of Fact of the Whitman County Planning Commission that these should be accepted and this action is consistent with the Whitman County Comprehensive Plan.

Change the zoning for Colfax Grange for 11.16 acres from the Agricultural District to Heavy Commercial as may be allowed by the Whitman County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 19.04. The site of this proposed rezone is located just outside the west edge of Colfax, WA on SR 26 in the SE ¼ of Section 10, Township 16 N., Range 43 E.W.M., Whitman County, Washington.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Whitman County Commissioners of Whitman County, Washington on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 2010.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Partch, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick J. O'Neill, Commiss.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maribeth Becker, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Largent, Commissioner

**11:20 a.m. - Recess.**

**12:00 p.m. - Board Business Continued.**

**BOCC MINUTES-08/16/10**

Present: Bob Lothspeich, Bob Reynolds, Brian Beason, Chris Nelson, Doug Robinson, Esther Wilson, Eunice Coker, Fran Martin, Greg Partch, Joe Reynolds, Kelli Campbell, Mark Storey, Marlynn Markley, Michael Largent, Pat O'Neill, Pete Martin, Robin Cocking, Elias Siriani, Jeslyn Lemke and Sarah Mason.

**071043 16.** The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter roundtable was held and main topic of discussion was finance. Other items touched on included 2008/2009 audits, budget amendment #3, 2011 preliminary budget, New World, Terra Scan, revaluations, IT staffing, Primary Election, Coroner calls, security window for Pullman District Court and revenues, Harrison Building renovations, classification surveys, trainings, benefits fair, county-wide multi-agency exercise, reduction in Public Health revenue, CGI Showcasing Whitman County, Almota and Wawawai Road projects, landfill study, first application for commercial wind farm and Hawkins project in the corridor.

**1:10 p.m. - Recess.**

**3:00 p.m. - One New 2010 Vibratory Pile Driver.**

Present: Mark Storey and Phil Meyer.

**071044** The following bid was received for one new 2010 vibratory pile driver.

<b>BIDDER</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Hercules Machinery Corp, Fort Wayne, Indiana	\$41,500.00 w/o tax

Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to award the bid for one new vibratory pile driver to Hercules Machinery Corp. in the amount of \$41,500 without tax, FOB Colfax.

**3:10 p.m. - Recess.**

**D071044A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Monday, August 23, 2010** at **9:10 a.m.** Chairman Greg Partch, Patrick J. O'Neill and Michael Largent Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

**9:10 a.m. - Meeting Reconvened/Board Business Continued.**

Present: Chris Nelson, Esther Wilson and Joe Smillie.

**071044B 17.** Claims/Payroll warrants numbered 242648-242667, 242750-242769, 242772-242774, 242777-242789, 242991 and 243057-243293 for \$635,670.95 approved.

**BOCC MINUTES-08/16/10**

<b>FUND</b>	<b>FUND NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
001	Current Expense	48,783.63	829.52	1,855.81
102	Building & Development	1,709.20		
103	Countywide Planning	1,838.60		
104	Developmental Services		43,095.52	
109	Homeless Housing			4,223.76
110	County Roads	15,305.40		
123	Paths/Trails-Park 123.310.000		1,185.00	
127	Drug Enforcement-Quad City	400.00		
128	Crime Victims/Witness-Pros. 000	350.00		
134	Elections-Special Project 001		26.50	
135	Prosecutor's Stop Grant	150.00		
141	Washington Housing SHB 2060			4,526.03
144	Emerg. Communicat. 144.260.001	250.00	19.07	
400	Solid Waste	800.00	1,403.10	129.67
410	Solid Waste Reserve		473.50	
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	4,697.40	11,946.92	118,801.05
660	Whitcom-General 660.911.000			55,916.81
660	Whitcom-Grant 660.911.001			2,821.34

<b>FUND</b>	<b>FUND NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
001	Current Expense	5,268.20		139,163.75
102	Building & Development			42.59
103	Countywide Planning			49.03
104	Developmental Services			670.29
110	County Roads	1,689.80		2,667.82
111	CETC Building			300.87
112	Public Facilities Improvement			5,921.10
117	Boating Safety			193.43
118	Inmate Welfare			447.64
123	Paths/Trails-BCPT 123.310.001			584.88
127	Drug Enforcement-Quad City			994.18
134	Elections Reserve 000			42.50
134	Elections-Special Project 001			2,158.34
135	Prosecutor's Stop Grant			4,006.91
143	Trial Court Improve 143.030.000			2,075.25
144	Emerg. Communicat. 144.260.001			516.13
300	CIP Cap. Projects 300.010.005			337.50
400	Solid Waste			18,234.56
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	350.00		127,472.90
690	Clearing Fund 690.002.000		265.10	
690		690.300.002		680.35

18. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the 2010-2011 school health nurse contracts as presented.

**071045** Endicott School District #308

**BOCC MINUTES-08/16/10**

**071046** Guardian Angel/St. Boniface  
**071047** Lacrosse School District #126  
**071048** Palouse School District #301  
**071049** St. John School District #322  
**071050** Steptoe School District #304

**D071050A 19.** Chairman Partch offered to seek a special meeting of the Whitcom Board to act on a resolution requesting county commissioner support for passage of an increased excise tax for E911. If the county does not enact the additional tax, state funding for E911 could be discontinued. Commissioner O'Neill noted the state will now be collecting and administering these funds and charging the county 1% for providing that service.

**9:15 a.m.** - Kelli Campbell, Bob Lothspeich and Kelsey Samuels.

**071051 20.** Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize a sole source resolution with Spectracom and Convex for equipment needed to complete the simulcast system.

**RESOLUTION NO. 071051**

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Whitman County, Washington in the matter of contracting with Spectracom and Convex for the following reasons: there are only two simulcast systems available for use over Microwave backhaul. All multiplexers in our communication system must be the same in order for simulcast to work.

WHEREAS, the Board of Whitman County Commissioners recognizes the Department of Emergency Management Emergency Communication Division needs these vendors to complete our emergency communications system; and,

WHEREAS, we have the need and requirement to maintain continuity within the Emergency Communication System. We require Harris and Spectracom timing and synchronization equipment for use in our simulcast system. No other contractor has the necessary equipment that will synchronize our simulcast system and is deemed a sole source provider.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Whitman County Department of Emergency Management may enter into sole source agreement with Spectracom and Convex for the equipment needed to complete the simulcast system.

ADOPTED August 23, 2010.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Greg Partch, Chairman

**BOCC MINUTES-08/16/10**

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick J. O'Neill, Commiss.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maribeth Becker, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Largent, Commissioner

**071052**     **21.** Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize a sole source resolution with BCL Electric.

**RESOLUTION NO. 071052**

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Whitman County, Washington in the matter of contracting with BCL Electric for electrical work on the Emergency Communication System projects system.

WHEREAS, the Board of Whitman County Commissioners recognizes the Department of Emergency Management Emergency Communication Division needs this vendor to complete our emergency communications plan and,

WHEREAS, they are the electricians for Whitcom which has an extremely complex electrical system due to multiple UPS system and backup generator. They are uniquely familiar with the electrical and R56 standard grounding system that these projects require.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Whitman County Department of Emergency Management may enter into sole source agreement with BCL Electric.

ADOPTED August 23, 2010.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Partch, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick J. O'Neill, Commiss.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maribeth Becker, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Largent, Commissioner

**071053**     **22.** A request was received from Fran Martin seeking authorization to use the grant rate for per diem rather the county's per diem rate for Public Health employee attendance at a WIC conference. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the request.

**BOCC MINUTES-08/16/10**

**071054 23.** An update on the August 18<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting was provided by the Treasurer and Chairman who noted the significant progress made at that meeting on the division of duties for three financial positions. Treasurer Lothspeich said finality of position descriptions is dependent on the individuals selected for the positions. The Committee has simply established a basis for those positions.

Kelli Campbell said with respect to the commissioners' position, the following steps are required:

1. Commissioners create and approve a job description.
2. Human Resources will classify the position for commissioner approval.
3. Commissioners decide upon the area range of advertising.
4. Commissioners decide if the position will be a separate department or be included in the commissioners' department.

It was the general consensus of the Board this position be a separate department as it was in the past.

**9:45 a.m.** - Marlynn Markley and Doug Robinson.

**071055 24.** Marlynn Markley said approximately every five years the state replaces all court computer systems and Whitman County is scheduled for computer replacement in 2011. The state will either purchase the equipment for the court or provide \$700/PC and \$200/monitor and allow the court to select its own equipment. District Court prefers the latter and will work with Information Technology in purchasing the necessary equipment. Printers will also be replaced but selection is not an option for the Court. The state requires the Court to enter into a contract for this purpose. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize the court to sign a contract with the Administrator of the Courts for replacement of computer equipment.

**9:55 a.m.** - **Recess.**

**10:45 a.m.** - Denis Tracy, Karl Johanson, Mark Storey and Kelsey Samuels.

**071056 25.** Denis Tracy joined the meeting to discuss the Vanpool Investment Program federal agreement. He pointed out contrary to the proposed agreement the county does not have an Unincorporated Area Transit District (UATD). The county actually established an Unincorporated Transportation Benefit Area (UTBA). In reviewing emails from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), he suggested striking "Area Transit District" and substituting UTBA making it clear the state is contracting with the county rather than a transportation district. In doing so, the agreement title and resolution establishing the UTBA will coincide. He suggested both the Chairman and Karl Johanson sign the agreement. The

**BOCC MINUTES-08/16/10**

agreements were signed by all parties and forwarded to the state to be executed.

**D071056A 26.** Commissioner O'Neill said he is awaiting information from Kristine Wilson, Washington State General Administration regarding an energy savings program for county buildings as well as Martin Hall.

**11:25 a.m. - Adjournment.**

**D071056B** Commissioner O'Neill **moved** to adjourn the **August 16** and **23, 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 **August 30, 2010**. The foregoing action made this **23rd** day of **August 2010**.

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

---

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

---

GREG PARTCH, CHAIRMAN  
Board of County Commissioners