

Minutes for August 18th, 2003

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061476 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **August 18, 2003** at **10:00 a.m.** G.R. "Jerry" Finch, Chairman, Greg Partch, and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

10:00 a.m. - Board Business.

D061476A 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Brett Bosse and Tammy Lewis.

D061476B 2. Motion by Commissioner Wigen to approve the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried**.

061477 3. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered 152422-152449, 152452-152609, and 152612-152622 for \$336,021.29 approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	31,846.00	10,337.98	33,060.93
102	Building & Development	1,300.00	200.00	168.13
103	Countywide Planning	1,021.20	200.00	255.05
110	County Roads	15,002.40	4,050.00	1,898.33
112	Public Facilities Improvement			3,408.75
118	Inmate Welfare			113.60
127	Drug Enforcement	400.00		446.91
129	HB 3900			62.28
320	Cap. Project/Outside Sources (Bond)			107,557.66
400	Solid Waste	2,659.60		88,410.89
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	4,039.60	1,197.20	26,589.01
513	Communications Revolving			1,795.77

061478 4. August 11, 2003 minutes approved.

061479-061482 5. Personnel board orders approved.

061482A 6. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

10:10 a.m. - Recess.

10:30 a.m. - Fran Martin, Public Health/Emergency Management Director.

Present: Brett Bosse, Tammy Lewis and Hillary Hamm.

D061482B 1. Ms. Martin reviewed the draft Emergency Management Comprehensive Plan, emergency functions and plan process noting every agency involved in the plan would be provided a copy. Commissioner Partch suggested a change to the organizational chart that Ms. Martin will make.

Other areas touched on included the Emergency Management assessment, letters to individuals where Emergency Management equipment is being stored for accountability, and advertising for an Americorp/Vista worker for Emergency Management.

Motion by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to adopt the Whitman County Emergency Management Comprehensive Plan and then proceed with revising the Emergency Management Ordinance, (Whitman County Code Chapter 2.24).

2. Motion by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to allow the Chairman to sign the school health contracts as presented.

- 061483** Colfax School District
- 061484** Colton School District
- 061485** Endicott School District
- 061486** Garfield School District
- 061487** Lacrosse School District
- 061488** Lamont School District
- 061489** Oakesdale School District
- 061489A** Palouse School District
- 061490** Rosalia School District
- 061491** St. John School District
- 061492** Steptoe School District
- 061493** Tekoa School District

061494 3. A personnel board order was approved authorizing the refilling of a Community Health Nurse/RN position.

D061494A 4. Ms. Martin said there is a planned power outage scheduled for Colfax this week. She will be contacting the Facilities Management Supervisor about a generator because she does not want the thousands of dollars of vaccines in the Public Health refrigerator to be ruined. The other option is to temporarily transfer the vaccines to the jail.

10:50 a.m. - Recess.

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

Present: Mark Storey, Brett Bosse, Tammy Lewis and Hillary Hamm.

Solid Waste Division:

D061494B 1. According to the Director, the Transfer Station has been very busy. He attributed this to the students returning to WSU.

Engineering Division:

D061494C 2. Engineer Mark Storey provided an update on the status of the Wassum Bridge, Endicott Road and the Johnson "S" curve projects.

Finance Division:

D061494D 3. Staff continues working on the 2004 preliminary Public Works budgets.

Maintenance Division:

D061494E 4. Once Public Works has a full staff back after harvest, the crews will begin ditching and grading when possible and hauling gravel by late September.

D061494F 5. The Railroad contacted Public Works last week about the Rock Springs crossing. Public Works put in a quick detour so the Railroad could rebuild the crossing with new rails and ties. Once the Railroad completes their work, Public Works will lay asphalt. The entire project should be completed by the end of the week.

11:15 a.m. - Bev Welch, Finance/Information Services Director.

Present: Dan Brown, Brett Bosse, Tammy Lewis and Hillary Hamm.

061495 1. Dan Brown explained a proposal to move the majority of the Mitel telephone system equipment to the new Information Services building where it will have access to emergency power. In addition, the proposal includes the cost of telephones and accessories for Information Services at their new location. The total estimate including labor is \$6,290.00. This cost would be deducted from the bond proceeds approved in 2002. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried** to approve the proposal.

11:30 a.m. - Joe Reynolds, Eunice Coker, Randy Baldree, Pete Martin, Kelli Campbell, Bob Lothspeich, Tim Myers, Dane Dunford, Brett Myers, Peggy Wright, Bob Reynolds, and John Peterson.

The following individuals contacted the Clerk of the Board regarding their absence from today's meeting: Chad Connors.

061496 2. The July 2003 ending financial report provided by Ms. Welch.

July 2003 Cash Balance - \$1,869,236
July 2002 Cash Balance - \$1,486,037

July 2003 Revenue - \$5,135,809 - 61.97% of budget.
July 2002 Revenue - \$4,496,860 - 52.31% of budget.

July 2003 Expenditures \$4,797,535 - 55.86% of budget.
July 2002 Expenditures \$4,722,374 - 52.14% of budget.

061497 3. The 14th Month 2002 ending financial report provided by Ms. Welch.

14th Month 2002 Revenue - \$8,679,981 - 93.42 of budget.
14th Month 2001 Revenue - \$8,627,179 - 98.86 of budget.

14th Month 2002 Expenditures \$8,802,454 - 94.73% of budget.
14th Month 2001 Expenditures \$8,569,821 - 94.05% of budget.

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

1:30 p.m. - Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.

Present: Dave Frazier, Doug Robinson, Shirley Bafus, and Marklynn Markley (2:00 p.m.), and Kelli Campbell (3:00 p.m.).

061498 7. Items discussed included the Workforce Development annual meeting and dinner, the Lentil festival, Hauser property, WSAC survey, county recording systems, Northwestern Mutual Long-term disability insurance and Mutual of Omaha insurance. No action taken.

3:30 p.m. - Recess.

D061498A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **August 19, 2003** at **2:00 p.m.** G.R. "Jerry" Finch, Chairman, Greg Partch, and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

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

Present: Fran Martin, Dr. Moody, John Skyles and Jim Nunn.

D061498B 1. Dr. Moody reported on an unconfirmed case of West Nile Virus in a human subject in the Tri-Cities area. It is interesting because there have been no reports of birds or mosquitoes testing positive for the virus. It will be another 1-2 weeks before the Center for Disease Control (CDC) files their report. Whitman County is still submitting birds and performing mosquito surveillance (test traps). Dr. Moody was hopeful there would not be much of a problem in our area as a result of the dry weather conditions. Ms. Martin noted Colorado declared a Public Health state of emergency today about very issue. Chairman Finch voiced his concern about retention ponds being mosquito habitats. Dr. Moody indicated there are mosquito controls that can be used to take care of the surface water in retention ponds to reduce mosquito breeding grounds.

D061498C 2. Commissioner Partch asked about preventive health measures with the return of students to WSU. In working with WSU, Dr. Moody commented a policy has been instituted encouraging vaccination of new students to campus. WSU Health Services has done a good job of heavily promoting and informing students about the Meningococcal vaccination.

D061498D 3. Dr. Moody mentioned the availability of a nasal spray for the influenza vaccine recently approved, although it is twice as expensive as the injection. Ms. Martin said Public Health would refer clients wanting the nasal spray vaccine to their doctor unless Public Health receives numerous requests. The cost through Public Health would be approximately \$52.00.

D061498E 4. John Skyles reported a case of Salmonella Typhoid Fever was confirmed in a WSU student's child. This individual began getting ill in transit from their home country of Pakistan to WSU via New York. The illness was not acquired locally. Dr. Moody said all close contacts with the child, i.e. household contacts, critical occupation/care facilities, and food service should be tested.

D061498F 5. Mr. Skyles talked about the visit by a Department of Ecology (DOE) representative to the Transfer Station at the request of the county concerning Whitman County's demolition waste. The representative said everything looked good and a few days later he received a letter (as the permitting authority) from Marney Solheim, a junior member of DOE, that there were many problems at the Transfer Station.

1. "The Landfill Closure Plan had not been completed". The Plan has not been completed because DOE was unable to give the county an answer about the gas collection situation. That has just been wrapped up.
2. "The demolition waste fill was full of objects that did not meet the definition of demolition waste". There will always be a few things. Ms. Solheim specifically mentioned sod and green waste. Although these two items do not fit the definition of demolition waste, there is certainly no hazard to the groundwater. Initially, there was a bit of a flow problem with the demolition waste, but now the controls have been tightened up. Anyone with a questionable load must dump it on the floor or at the demolition waste site in the presence of a Solid Waste staff member.
3. "The county was criticized for using the ground green waste as mulch on the Landfill". The county accepts yard waste free of charge. It is ground up and sprinkled over the face of the closed Landfill to act as a mulch, conserve moisture, control weeds, and is a good use of the green waste. Ms. Solheim was concerned about the runoff from the green waste, which in Mr. Skyles opinion is absurd. This is something the county should be praised for and not criticized.

4. "Another point was the level of the wastewater lagoon". The lagoon must be pumped periodically. It is not quite large enough and depending upon the weather, to handle all the effluent by evaporation. If it does rise above 18" of freeboard, it is pumped. A measuring stick has been installed to the wall of the lagoon for easy reading of the depth and it has never been above 18".

Staff found the letter to be very disheartening. Mr. Skyles will respond to Ms. Solheim.

D061498G 6. Mr. Nunn received a complaint about 30-gallon drums being buried in northeastern Whitman County. Upon inspection, Mr. Nunn observed approximately 15, 30-gallon chemical drums laid horizontally. Each drum had a one-foot diameter hole allowing a black tar-like substance to drain in the ground. Because of the nature of the dumping and possibility of a hazardous substance, this issue was turned over to DOE. Today, DOE made an on-site inspection and are taking samples. The property owner has a current disposal permit for other materials at another location and felt that permit was sufficient for burying this material, which is not the case.

2:20 p.m. - Dan Brown.

D061498H 7. Mr. Skyles stated that Tekoa Golf Course has installed a drainfield due to the failure of a pump that pumps their waste to the city's sewer system.

D061498I 8. Mr. Brown gave an update on the Public Health firewall project for Whitman, Columbia, and Garfield County. Most of the equipment has been purchased; Whitman County spent \$15,000, and the other two counties will contribute \$6,000 each from their \$15,000 each allocation to Whitman County for equipment. The equipment is slated for an install in September after the Fair.

Ms. Martin said the \$12,000 from the other two counties goes toward equipment, time and training for Mr. Brown to assist the other counties, and a training engineer for the other counties. In addition, for showing this type of ingenuity, the state provided Whitman County a \$4,000 piece of equipment. Ms. Martin praised Mr. Brown for his hard work on this project.

D061498J 9. The child death money the state was providing has been discontinued as a result of the last legislative session. However, Whitman County will attempt to keep an informal death team together in the event of a child fatality so they can at least look at preventative aspects.

D061498K 10. A study was done benchmarking immunizations. The results are as follows: National average - 75%, State average - 69%, Whitman County average - 94%. The Director attributed Whitman County's high percentage to education.

D061498L 11. Ms. Martin provided a brief staffing level update.

D061498M 12. Through previous discussions about the new Information Services (IS) Building and emergency power, the Health Department agreed to contribute a portion of the cost for a new generator along with Public Works and IS. In visiting with the Public Works Director, the cost of the generator may be as high as \$25,000. If this is the case, Public Health may require a budget amendment. It was the consensus of the Board that the county will do whatever is necessary.

061499 13. Ms. Martin distributed copies of the Whitman County Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis.

D061499A 14. Commissioner Partch questioned the status of SARS, which is now a non-issue, previous TB and Pertussis cases, the Small Pox Readiness and Bioterrorism Plans, which are both completed, pool testing that is being performed by Mr. Skyles, and West Nile Virus mosquito test traps. Commissioner Partch asked staff to submit in writing any Public Health issues for the legislature.

D061499B 15. The next Board of Health meeting is September 16th.

3:00 p.m. - Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.

Present: Dane Dunford, Mark Storey, and John Peterson (3:30 p.m.).

061499C 8. Items discussed included Farmington Building immediate danger and county insurance. No action taken.

3:55 p.m. - Dane Dunford, Public Works Director.

Present: Mark Storey.

061500 1. Chairman Finch read a resolution concerning an existing emergency and waiving of the competitive bid process. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried** to sign the resolution.

**RESOLUTION NO. 061500
OF
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR WHITMAN COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Whitman County, State of Washington, met in regular session on Tuesday, August 19, 2003; and,

WHEREAS, the structure located on parcels 1-0330-00-02-04-0001, Lot 4, Block 2, Farmington original plat, the former Knights of Phythias Building, owned

by Christopher Dvorak, has been condemned pursuant to the Notice and Order dated December 17, 2001; and,

WHEREAS, permits for the demolition of the structure have been issued, and extensions for the performance of the demolition and removal/cleanup have been granted; and,

WHEREAS, the demolition methods used by the property owner have contributed to the further structural deterioration of the building, such that it is in imminent danger of collapse; and,

WHEREAS, the structure was examined on August 19, 2003, by Whitman County Engineer Mark Storey and Consulting Engineer Jerry Nichols, and it was determined that the building was in immediate danger of collapse and could result in material loss or damage to property, bodily injury, or loss of life if immediate action is not taken; and,

WHEREAS, the property owner, Christopher Dvorak, does not possess the technical skill, equipment, nor the financial means to secure the technical skill and equipment for the immediate and safe demolition of the building; and,

WHEREAS, Christopher Dvorak has agreed to allow Whitman County to arrange for the immediate demolition of the building and hereby releases Whitman County and any contractor retained by Whitman County from liability for the demolition of the building. All removal of debris and cleanup will be the sole responsibility of the owner, Christopher Devorak

WHEREAS, the Board agrees that an emergency existed on August 19, 2003 in the Town of Farmington concerning the safety to the general public; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that an emergency exists and that the competitive bid process be waived due to the imminent hazard to the public in Farmington, and the bid process would be time-consuming increasing the threat to the public; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED and in accordance with R.C.W. 39.04.280 that the Board of Whitman County Commissioners hereby directs Whitman County Public Works to take whatever actions are deemed necessary to mitigate the risk to the public per Whitman County's interlocal agreement with the Town of Farmington pertaining to the Building Code, inspections and enforcement.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of August 2003.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

G.R. Finch, Chairman

ATTEST:

Greg Partch, Commissioner

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Les Wigen, Commissioner

061501 2. An executed copy of the signed agreement between Whitman County and Christopher Dvorak was received.

4:00 p.m. - Adjournment.

D061501A Commissioner Partch **moved** to adjourn the **August 18** and **19, 2003** 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 25, 2003**. The foregoing action made this **19th** day of **August 2003**.

ss/ GREG PARTCH, Commissioner
ss/ LES WIGEN, Commissioner

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

G.R. FINCH, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners