

Minutes for August 23, 2006

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)-397-6200.

D065805N THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for a special session on August 23, 2006 at 10:45 p.m. G.R. Finch, Chairman, Greg Partch and Les Wigen, Commissioners.

10:45 p.m. - Chairman Finch called a special meeting of the Board to order due to the Palouse River fire.

Present: Emergency Management Director Fran Martin, Robin Cocking, Colfax Fire Chief Ralph Walter, Fire District 11 Chief Jim Krouse and Fire District 12 Chief Lester Irwin.

Emergency Management Director Fran Martin requested the commissioners declare a state of emergency for the following reasons:

- State emergency funding
- Recognition of mutual aid

Jim Krause updated the commissioners. He reported the fire began at approximately 3:30 p.m. on the north side of SR 195 across from Nolan Heating & Air out to Bill Knox's on Lanky Road. The fire is approximately 6 miles long and 1 mile wide encompassing 3,000-5,000 acres. Eight (8) structures are endangered, 1 elevator was lost belonging to Greg Jones and 1 railroad trestle across from Steve Morton's was currently burning.

10:22 p.m. - After a telephone conversation with Fran Martin, Dave with the State Department of Emergency Management issued State of Washington Emergency Management Division Mission #062522 to Whitman County.

Fran Martin read a proposed resolution declaring an emergency pursuant to R.C.W. 38.52.

Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to adopt the resolution presented.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WHITMAN COUNTY WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING AN)
EMERGENCY PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 38.52)

RESOLUTION NO. 065806

BOCC MINUTES-08/23/06

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6), the Board of County Commissioners, Whitman County, Washington, has the care of County property and the management of County funds and business; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(7), the Board of County Commissioners may make and enforce, by appropriate resolutions or ordinances, all such police and fire regulations that are not in conflict with the state law; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(42.30.080), the Board of County Commissioners may dispense with the notice requirements for a special meeting when such a special meeting is called to deal with an emergency involving injury or damage to persons or property or the likelihood of such injury or damage, when time requirements of such notice would make notice impractical and increase the likelihood of such injury or damage; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 38.52 RCW, in the instance where an emergency is declared, the Board of County Commissioners of Whitman County has the right to exercise certain powers and duties as provided for in said chapter without the necessity of complying with time consuming procedures and formalities; and,

WHEREAS, Fran Martin, Director of Emergency Management, has briefed the Board of County Commissioners of Whitman County on the likelihood of an ongoing emergency on August 23, 2006, specifically, the fire located on the South Palouse River, east of Colfax, Washington in Whitman County; and,

WHEREAS, as a result the advice of the Director of Emergency Management, the Board of County Commissioners of Whitman County is desirous of declaring an emergency pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 38.52 RCW without regard to time consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law, including, but not limited to, budget law limitations, requirements of competitive bidding and publications of notices, provisions pertaining to the performance of public work, entering to contract:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Whitman County, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 38.52 RCW, and based upon the briefing of Fran Martin, Director of Emergency Management, the Board does hereby acknowledge and declare an emergency with the fire located on the South Palouse River east of Colfax, Washington in Whitman County and in so doing does authorize the execution of powers vested in Chapter 38.52 RCW by the Board of County Commissioners without regard to time consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of August 2006.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

G.R. Finch, Chairman

Greg Partch, Commissioner

Les Wigen, Commissioner

State of Washington Emergency Management Division Mission #062522.

10:45 p.m. - Bill Tensfeld, Whitman County Fire Chiefs Association arrived.

10:55 p.m. - Sheriff Brett Myers arrived.

11:00 p.m. - Sheriff Myers indicated the mobile command post was ready to be activated if requested.

11:05 p.m. - Chief Ralph Walter was named the incident commander and Fran Martin activated the Emergency Operations Center. They then requested the Sheriff activate his mobile command and position at the scene. The Sheriff and Coroner Pete Martin prepared and delivered the mobile command to the requested position. Glenn Johnson, Public Information Officer for the EOC was provided an incident update via telephone by Greg Partch.

11:07 p.m. - It was agreed to meet at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow at the Palouse River command post for another update.

11:10 p.m. - Adjournment.

D065806A Commissioner Partch **moved** to adjourn the **August 23, 2006** 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 28, 2006**. The foregoing action made this **23rd** day of **August 2006**.

ss/ Greg PARTCH, Commissioner

ss/ LES WIGEN, Commissioner

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

G.R. FINCH, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners