

Minutes for September 10, 2007

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067267 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Monday, September 10, 2007** at **9:00 a.m.** Chairman Greg Partch, G.R. Finch 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: Sharron Cunningham.

067268 1. Items discussed included an update on misdemeanor contracts, Colfax jail contract, airport letter and Commissioners' staffing level.

9:10 a.m. - BOCC Executive Session.

Present: Kelli Campbell and Gary and Valerie Hunt (9:00 a.m.).

D067268A 2. Commissioner Largent **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to go into executive session with the above individuals until 9:45 a.m. for negotiation matters.

10:00 a.m. - Return to Open Session/Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Joe Smillie.

D067268B 3. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch to accept the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Largent and **carried**.

067269 4. September 4, 2007 minutes approved.

067270-067271 5. Personnel board orders approved.

067272 6. Commissioner Largent **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize an increase in the 2007-2008 Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee dues from \$2,000-\$5,000.

067273 7. A letter was received from the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport Board concerning the encroaching development near the airport. This issue is currently being discussed by the county and City of Pullman.

067274 8. A copy of a letter sent to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was received from Clinton Miller regarding the proposed name changes from Squaw Creek and Squaw Canyon to Jack Pine Creek and Jack Pine Canyon.

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Mr. Miller felt a more appropriate name would be John Paulson Creek because Mr. Paulson had a significant role in the history of that area.

067275 9. A letter was also received from Kevin John Paulson, great grandson of John Paulson, providing additional information about the Paulson family.

Before the letters from Mr. Clinton and Mr. Paulson were received, the commissioners had made a recommendation to the DNR voicing no objections to the proposed new names. However, they agreed to prepare a follow-up letter to the DNR honoring the residents' request.

067276 10. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

10:25 a.m. - Recess.

10:30 a.m. - Mary Gilmore, NW Medstar.

Present: Joe Smillie.

D067276A Ms. Gilmore made a presentation to the commissioners regarding the possible offering of a volunteer benefit to county employees for membership with NW MedStar for critical care air/ground transport services.

11:10 a.m. - Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.

Present: John Adler, Adam Roberts, Josh Powers, Sharron Cunningham and Joe Smillie.

D067276B 11. Mr. Adler visited with the commissioners briefly regarding their cellular telephone service.

11:30 a.m. - Adam Roberts, Information Services.

Present: Bev Welch, Josh Powers, Sharron Cunningham, John Adler and Joe Smillie.

067277 Adam Roberts indicated this is a continuation of consideration for replacing the county's current telephone system that involves the Courthouse, Corrections Building, Public Service Building, Harrison Building, Information Services Building, Colfax Shop and Fairgrounds. He presented a quote from Qwest for replacing the current system with a Voice-Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) system. If approved, the new system would be purchased through the WSCA state contract AR637 that eliminates any bidding requirement. This plan includes Qwest installing a new system while running side-by-side with the current system. Qwest will conduct training sessions for all employees and once everyone is trained, the old system would be taken off line. Information Services staff would be responsible for physically installing new telephones in each department.

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Adam pointed out in recent weeks the voice mail system has been crashing and no longer allows any user to modify any mail box. He confirmed all unnecessary wiring would be removed by Information Services with the exception of a few emergency lines. In a worse-case scenario, if power was lost and the backup generators failed, this system would revert back to analog allowing for emergency calls to 9-1-1 only.

Sharron Cunningham confirmed funding is available in Current Expense that would be transferred to the Communications fund via a budget amendment.

Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to proceed with this telephone project (Qwest) through the state contract as presented for \$138,442.78 plus tax. Commissioner Finch extended his appreciation to Adam Roberts for his work on this project.

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

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

Present: Bev Welch and Sharron Cunningham (1:00 p.m.).

D067277A 12. Items discussed included an update on financial procedure changes. No action taken.

067278 13. Chairman Partch read a statement from the commissioners, also forwarded to all county employees in remembrance of 9-11, 6 years prior.

2:30 p.m. - Adjournment.

D067278A Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **September 10, 2007** 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 **September 17, 2007**. The foregoing action made this **10th** day of **September 2007**.

ss/ G.R. FINCH, COMMISSIONER
ss/ MICHAEL LARGENT, COMMISSIONER

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners