

## Minutes for September 12, 2005

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**064466 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **September 12, 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.**

**064467 1.** Items discussed included the Port's request for .08 funding, a Palouse Empire Fair letter, the upcoming WSAC conference and Pullman-Moscow Corridor draft. No action taken.

**9:45 a.m. - Recess.**

**10:00 a.m. - Pledge of Allegiance.**

Present: Janet Ashworth and Tammy Lewis.

**D064467A 2. Motion** by Commissioner Finch to approve the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

**064468 3.** Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **181057-181204** for **\$407,538.47** approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	323,320.07
102	Building & Development	40.72
103	Countywide Planning	207.28
104	Developmental Services	1,625.99
110	County Roads	2,778.14
119	Emergency Services	330.00
123	Paths & Trails	113.99
127	Drug Enforcement	140.00
141	Washington Housing SHB 2060	9,688.25
300	Capital Projects	382.98
400	Solid Waste	1,221.94
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	7,569.55
660	Whitcom-General-660.911.000	57,497.35
660	Whitcom-Grant Funding-660.911.001	2,622.21

**064469 4.** September 6, 2005 minutes approved.

**064470-064472 5.** Personnel board orders approved.

**BOCC Minutes-09/12/05**

**064473** 6. The ADO contract issue was tabled to September 19<sup>th</sup>, but due to scheduling conflicts, that dates was later changed to September 26<sup>th</sup>. Janet Ashworth asked that the contract remain within the goals of the position as outlined.

**064474** 7. Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize publishing a notice of hearing for the 2005 budget amendment #3.

**064475** 8. Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize publishing a notice calling for RFP's for the Assessor/Treasurer management systems. RFP's will be opened September 27, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.

**064476** 9. Commissioner Finch **moved** and Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion to approve a resolution supporting Proposition 1 on the September ballot.

The Chairman commented state law only allows the county commissioners to take a stand on a ballot issue during their session in a discussion period and that is the reason they have not done anything else other than try to provide the facts up to this point.

Commissioner Finch said although he is not a pro-tax individual, the reality is without the passage of this proposition he couldn't imagine the services that would have to be cut. Since the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET) has been reduced, new vehicle owners who previously paid \$800-\$900 for their vehicle license are now paying \$33. Hopefully, if they can get some projects going in Pullman the problem will begin to take care of itself. But in the meantime, he didn't see any other way around the problem if services are to continue.

Commissioner Wigen said the passage of Initiative 695 has taken much criminal and juvenile justice revenue from the county. In 1997, Whitman County had to sign a letter of credit with the bank because of increased expenditures and decreased revenues. He didn't want the county to be in that position again. In order to maintain services, this proposition is necessary to help fill the gap.

Commissioner Finch pointed out this proposition is only for money spent in Whitman County. (Sales tax would increase from 7.5% to 7.6%.) Sales tax in Spokane County is almost 8%.

Commissioner Wigen noted this additional sales tax could only be used for juvenile and jail costs.

Chairman Partch said unlike the cities, counties have very few ways of obtaining additional revenues. He too talked about paying higher taxes in

neighboring counties. While the commissioners feel this is critical to Whitman County, it won't solve all revenue shortfall problems, but it will certainly help. They have already taken some steps to curtail Current Expense (General Fund) operations with the possibility of layoffs and additional cuts in service. However, they are doing everything possible to forestall that. Motion passed **unanimously**.

**RESOLUTION NO. 064476**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the Whitman County Commissioners recognize that long-term dedicated funding is critical to the financial health and well being of any entity, private or public; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Washington has imposed mandates upon counties that they no longer fund, but still require; and,

WHEREAS, Whitman County has used its reserves for the past four years to balance its Current Expense budget; and,

WHEREAS, former funding sources have been eliminated due to initiatives, tax exemptions and discontinued state backfills; and,

WHEREAS, the County will have to severely curtail all Current Expense operations as well as vitally critical services should additional funding not be secured; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of juvenile justice and adult jail populations continue to escalate at alarming rates.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Whitman County Commissioners that they endorse and approve Proposition 1 asking the people of Whitman County to approve a one-tenth of one cent additional tax to the current sales tax; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this increased revenue would be used for juvenile justice and adult jail populations offsetting Current Expense dollars for vital and critical county operations.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2005.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Greg Partch, Chairman

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ATTEST:

G.R. Finch, Commissioner

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Maribeth Becker, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

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Les Wigen, Commissioner

**064477** 10. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to have the Chairman sign a collection contract between Whitman County and Alliance One Receivables Management, Inc. for the Clerk's office accounts receivable.

**064478** 11. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to sign a proclamation recognizing the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup> and Hurricane Katrina.



## P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, this past Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> marks the fourth anniversary of the terrorists act perpetrated on New Year, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. and the people of the United States and all freedom loving citizens of the world; and,

WHEREAS, our national flag flies at half staff in remembrance of those who have died, been injured or displaced by hurricane Katrina; and,

WHEREAS, we here in Whitman County want to count our blessings and recognize the thousands of brave men and women working abroad or at home, in the military, private or public sector.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Whitman County Commissioners do hereby on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of **September 2005**, send a sincere thank you on behalf of the people of Whitman County for all those who have and continue to do such brave and noble work in the name of the United State of America.

# United State of America.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Greg Partch, Chairman

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G.R. Finch, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Maribeth Becker, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

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Les Wigen, Commissioner

**064479** 12. Commissioner Finch **moved** and Commissioner Partch **seconded** the motion to sign a letter to the Port of Whitman County to fund \$600,000 from .08 money for the Isothermal Systems Research (ISR) expansion.

Commissioner Finch indicated the important thing to remember is that this action is premised on approval by the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB).

Chairman Partch said the purpose of .08 funding is to finance infrastructure that creates jobs and this is exactly what this project will do. It is similar to a Walla Walla County's airport and industrial park project that has been very successful. The Port is doing as much as they can by using up their bonding authority and requesting state funding. Therefore, he was very much in favor of this proposal. Economic Development is one of the issues Commissioner Finch and he ran on. If taxes can't be raised, the economic base must be expanded and this is the way to do that. He will be attending the CERB meeting this Thursday to support the Port's application.

Commissioners Finch and Partch voted aye; Commissioner Wigen voted nay.

**064479A** 13. A letter was sent to the Community Economic Revitalization Board endorsing the Port of Whitman County's application to assist in the ISR expansion.

**064480** 14. An email was received from Babs Pfaff resigning her position on the Salary Commission. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to regretfully accept Ms. Pfaff's resignation. A letter of appreciation was forwarded to Ms. Pfaff.

**064481** 15. A follow up to the liquid nutritional Medicaid issue was received from Scott Hallett, Nutrition Program Director for the Council on Aging and Human Services.

**064482** 16. Jerry Lenzi, WSDOT Regional Administrator responded to Commissioner Finch's letter concerning outdoor signage per the Scenic Vistas

**BOCC Minutes-09/12/05**

Act. Commissioner Finch provided background and his personal opinion regarding this issue.

**064483** 17. An executed copy of the DSHS Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Programs contract #0563-73267 was received.

**D064483A** 18. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

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

**11:05 a.m. - Dane Dunford, Public Works Director.**

Present: Mark Storey, Phil Meyer and Tammy Lewis.

**Action Items:**

**064484** 1. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to publish a notice of hearing of intent to surplus county property.

**11:10 a.m. - Adjournment.**

**D064484A** Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **September 12, 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 **September 19, 2005**. The foregoing action made this **19th** day of **September 2005**.

ss/ G.R. FINCH, Commissioner  
ss/ LES WIGEN, Commissioner

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MARIBETH BECKER, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

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GREG PARTCH, CHAIRMAN  
Board of County Commissioners