

Minutes for September 15th, 2003

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061549 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **September 15, 2003** at **9:00 a.m.** G.R. "Jerry" Finch, Chairman, Greg Partch, and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

9:00 a.m. - Board Business.

D061549A 1. Call to Order/Workshop.

Present: Kelli Campbell.

D061549A 2. Items discussed included an employee benefit issue.

D061549B 3. Motion by Commissioner Partch to go into Executive Session with Ms. Campbell for discussion of a HIPAA issue until 9:30 a.m. **Seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

9:30 a.m. - Return to Open Session/Recess.

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

Present: Brett Bosse.

D061549C 5. Motion by Commissioner Wigen to approve the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried**.

061550 6. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **153170-153219, 153242-153270, 153411,** and **153544-153685** for **\$692,985.36** approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	39,935.45
102	Building & Development	38.26
103	Countywide Planning	30.54
104	Developmental Services	9.47
110	County Roads	22,077.66
118	Inmate Welfare	187.71
123	Paths & Trails	353.84
127	Drug Enforcement	12,369.32
135	Prosecutor's Stop Grant	825.71
137	Web Site Development	10.47
139	"911" Emergency Service	16,009.75
320	Cap. Project/Outside Sources (Bond)	10,512.00
400	Solid Waste	7,293.13

501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	11,061.50
510	Photocopier Revolving	1,647.90
513	Communications Revolving	3,338.03
690	Clearing & Suspense	224,486.26
ET	Electronic Transfer	342,798.36

061551 7. September 8, 2003 minutes approved.

061552-061555 8. Personnel board orders approved.

9:45 a.m. - Brett Bosse.

D061555A 9. The agreement between Whitman County and Qwest Communications was temporarily tabled.

061556 10. **Motion** by Commissioner Partch and **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen to accept the resignation of Randy Suess from the Salmon Recovery Board. Commissioner Partch expressed his appreciation to Mr. Suess for his time and involvement on the Board. Motion **carried**.

061557 11. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen and **seconded** by Commissioner Partch to appoint Edward Schultz to the Salmon Recovery Board (SRB). Commissioner Wigen commented that Mr. Schultz is retired from the Forest Service and aware of many of the issues before the SRB. Motion **carried**.

9:50 a.m. - Randy Daniels.

061558 12. **Motion** by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to sign a letter of support to Paula Connelley for the Scenic Heritage Byways grant.

9:55 a.m. - Tim Myers.

061559 13. Mr. Myers brought forth a natural gas line easement requested by Avista Utilities across the Bill Chipman Palouse Trail (BCPT). Avista received a request from Motley-Motley on Sunshine Road between Pullman and Moscow to add a gas line for their concrete plant. The current easement goes to the old concrete plant. They would like to tie into that line and bring it over to Motley's. Mr. Myers initially heard from Avista in June and apparently the information he sent back was lost. Randy Daniels of Avista contacted the county again last week to get this issue resolved. Early on Mr. Myers requested Avista use the county's easement language because it was approved legally and protects the BCPT. Avista returned a revised easement with the county's language. In the meantime, the Prosecutor reviewed the language and highly recommended a fee be assessed for the easement, adding that he thought it was probably legally required. Avista does have a standard fee they pay of \$.50 per linear foot for a total of 301 feet or \$150.50. All other easements on the BCPT were existing

easements and not new like this one. Mr. Myers recommended the Board allow the easement.

Commissioner Partch thought the county should receive Avista's standard payment and **moved** to approve the easement. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen. Chairman Finch said since we now know where the highway will be located and when developing in the corridor, Avista will probably be called upon many times for additional upgrades. The county looks forward to working with them in a positive manner to develop that area. Motion **carried**.

10:05 a.m. - Terry Snead.

061560 14. John Skyles responded to the Department of Ecology (DOE) regarding Whitman County's limited purpose Landfill and Transfer Station permit evaluation of July 11th. Commissioner Partch commented that the letter was very well written and the DOE needs to be reigned in. They are nit-picking in order to protect their jobs. We need to go forward with this but when they have the opportunity to visit with the right people this needs to be brought to their attention. The other members concurred. Chairman Finch thought DOE is one department the state needs to de-fund. They have too much power and not enough accountability.

10:10 a.m. - Kathy Lemon and Bob Lothspeich.

061561 15. A letter was received from Robb Lemke, Director of Ralph Naylor Farms, stating an agreement regarding well testing protocol has been reached with the City of Pullman.

061562 16. After examination of the Whitman County child Support Program Expenditures for the period January 1-December 31, 2002, the Department of Social and Health Services issued an Auditor's certificate.

061563 17. Notice was received from the Department of Labor and Industries stating as of October 27, 2003 the Department is changing its procedures regarding premium liability releases provided to firms and organizations for work done by contract.

061564 18. The commissioners completed a request for feedback from State Auditor Brian Sonntag as a result of the county's recent audit.

061564A 19. The Chairman signed an agreement between Whitman County and Qwest Communications for telephone equipment.

061565 20. An executed copy of an obligation and responsibilities agreement between the Whitman County Business Development Association and the CETC Advisory Committee was received.

061566 21. An executed copy of the interlocal agreement between the counties of Asotin, Columbia, Garfield and Whitman Counties for the reformation of the Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) was received.

D061566A 22. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

10:15 a.m. - Kathy Lemon, Revenue Officer.

Present: Bob Lothspeich, Brett Bosse, and Terry Snead.

061567 Ms. Lemon indicated Public Works has surplus equipment they would like to sell. The process requires the Treasurer to request the commissioners conduct a public hearing, advertised 3 consecutive weeks. Booker Auction will include Whitman County's item with another sale in Utopia. **Motion** by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to proceed with the recommendation presented by the Treasurer's office. Hearing will be held October 6, 2003 at 10:45 a.m.

10:25 a.m. - Travis Anderson, Information Services.

Present: Brandon Burch, Brett Bosse and Terry Snead.

061568 Mr. Anderson submitted a request to replace a desktop computer with a laptop docking station for Information Services to be purchased with Asset Acquisition funds in the amount of \$2,277. The docking station will allow staff to move the computer from one location to another. Currently, all programming work is being performed on a non-county computer.

Information Services recently purchased Visual Studio programming software, a DVD burner (available to all departments) and VM-Ware for use as a testing box for all versions of windows. **Motion** by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to accept and approve the request as presented.

10:40 a.m. - Mike Werner, Developmental Services Director.

Present: Sue Kreikemeier, Early Learning Services, Brett Bosse and Terry Snead.

061569 1. A copy of a letter received by Mr. Werner from DSHS was distributed. The letter indicates the state is no longer requiring recipients of State Supplemental Payments (SSP) to purchase specific residential services with these funds.

061570 2. Mr. Werner reported that Latah and Whitman County jointly applied for and received a \$7,500 grant for the Early Childhood Investment Funding program from the National Association of Counties (NACO). This award was one of six awarded nationwide.

Ms. Kreikemeier said both counties have been discussing ways in which to increase awareness and the need for strategically planning and supporting school readiness throughout our communities. They previously looked at other grant opportunities and completed some preliminary needs assessments in both counties by talking to parents, early childhood providers and community members about what resources are available to families with children and what seemed to be the gaps. The idea is to expand the preliminary work by doing a more thorough job of gathering information. They determined the best way to do this is by pulling together a team of people to gather more information and by hiring someone to summarize the findings into a report that can be provided to any type of planning group for building upon the strengths in our communities.

The plan is to establish 2 planning teams, one in each county. Ms. Kreikemeier is the lead person for the Whitman County Team. Recognizing that county government is an important entity to involve in this process, she requested commissioner involvement. The time commitment over the next 10 months is 15 hours for 4 meetings. The first meeting will be collaboratively with Latah County to review the goals and strategies in order to move forward. Separate county meetings will follow to perform the work outlined.

The ultimate goal is to have planning for resources that benefit young children and families a part of any county planning, while keeping in front of us the importance of supporting and extending resources to promote school readiness so children are more successful when they enter the public school system.

Commissioner Partch asked how the other 15 communities in Whitman County would be included in the plan. Ms. Kreikemeier said that would be accomplished through much rural representation on the team. This plan provides the opportunity to collaborate with developmental services, public schools, primary level teachers and administrators.

A press release is ready to be distributed. The funding is being processed through Latah County therefore Ms. Kreikemeier will be working closely with her counterpart in Latah County.

Chairman Finch volunteered Commissioner Partch as the county's representative on the Palouse Planning and Implementation (PPI) Team.

Ms. Kreikemeier will draft a letter seeking other participation on the PPI Team for the commissioners' signatures.

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

Present: Mark Storey, Brett Bosse and Terry Snead.

Action Items:

061571 1. As previously reported, and on the advice of the County Road Administration Board, Mr. Storey presented a letter addressed to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requesting they revise their road easement documents to be equally beneficial to both parties. **Motion** by Commissioner Partch and **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen to sign the letter to DNR.

Commissioner Partch said the Board took a draft of the letter to the Quad Counties meeting last week where representatives of DNR were in attendance. Judy Wilson commented this was a loose-end item that has been in progress for 10 years. Their attorney drafted the lease but failed to run it by the CRAB. Ms. Wilson said the proper procedure is exactly what Whitman County is doing and they are expecting the letter. Motion **carried**.

061572 2. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen and **seconded** by Commissioner Partch to sign a letter to Representative George Nethercutt encouraging reauthorization/extension of the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21) for the 21st century.

Commissioner Partch felt letters should also be sent to other legislators since this is critical legislation that needs to be passed. Having served on the ISTEA Board in the past he understood the importance of is legislation that has been instrumental in revitalizing many of our towns, i.e. Colfax Fairview project, Bishop Boulevard in Pullman, and the Palouse downtown area. He did visit with the commissioners representative Leo Bowman and NACO Transportation Coordinator/first Vice President Bill Hansel about this issue last week in Walla Walla. Motion **carried**.

061572A 3. Mr. Dunford distributed copies of the quote tabulation obtained through the vendor list process. **Motion** by Commissioner Partch to award the quote for two (2) fixed angle snowplows to Ed-Ka Manufacturing, Garfield, WA. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen.

According to the vendor list worksheet, Commissioner Partch said Pacific Utility Equipment Co. of Spokane bid \$9,638.00 without tax and Ed-ka Manufacturing of Garfield bid \$10,134.18 without tax for a \$496.00 difference in favor of Pacific Utilities. In reviewing the bids and having done much research previously about awarding higher bids by taking into account the amount of taxes that would remain in Whitman County, in this case, if Ed-Ka Manufacturing was awarded the bid, \$770.18 would remain in the county and local municipality of Garfield. If the bid were awarded to Pacific Utilities all \$780.68 would remain in Spokane County.

Resolution #060918 was passed March 17, 2003 allowing the commissioners to award higher bids by taking into consideration the tax revenue the county would receive from purchasing the goods or services within the county. This issue has been before the County Prosecutor who specifically spelled

out in his letter of February 26, 2003 that the Board could award higher bids for this reason.

Commissioner Wigen confirmed state statute allows the county to award higher bids to Whitman County vendors provided the sales tax issue is taken into consideration. Motion **carried**.

Engineering Division:

061573 4. Through the small works roster process, the bid for guardrail was awarded to Frank Gurney, Inc., Spokane, WA in the amount of \$9,500 without tax for the Loosemore Bridge on Jones Road.

D061573A 5. The Engineer provided an update on the Endicott Road, Wassum Bridge, Johnson Road and Tensed Road projects. Commissioner Partch suggested a letter of appreciation be sent to the Kammerzell's for use of their rock quarry for the Tensed Road.

Maintenance Division:

D061573B 6. Mr. Dunford expected centerline-striping work to be completed today. The crew will then begin edgeline striping.

D061573C 7. Repairs have been completed for a small slide that occurred this past winter on Henning Hill exposing 6-8 guardrail posts.

Planning Division:

D061573D 8. Two conditional use permit hearings will be held September 18th, one for the Pullman Garden Center and the other for the Almota Inn.

11:20 a.m. - Recess.

11:30 a.m. - Bob Lothspeich, County Treasurer.

Present: Joe Reynolds, Eunice Coker, Mike Werner, Doug Robinson, Kelli Campbell, Chad Connors, Tim Myers, Denis Tracy, Peggy Wright, Marlynn Markley, Tom Miller, Sharon Roberts, and John Peterson.

The following individuals contacted the Clerk of the Board regarding their absence from today's meeting: Bev Welch, Dane Dunford, Fran Martin, and Brett Myers.

061574 The August 2003 ending financial report provided by Ms. Welch.

August 2003 Cash Balance - \$1,577,467

August 2002 Cash Balance - \$1,176,416

August 2003 Revenue - \$5,586,540 - 67.41% of budget.

August 2002 Revenue - \$4,920,665 - 57.24% of budget.

August 2003 Expenditures \$5,518,830 - 64.26% of budget.

August 2002 Expenditures \$5,434,964 - 60.01% of budget.

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

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

Present: Bill Vogler and Jim Potts, WSAC and Debbie Wilke, WACO, Eunice Coker, Shirley Bafus, and Bob Lothspeich (2:00 p.m.), Doug Robinson, Marlynn Markley, David Frazier, Shirley Bafus and Maribeth Becker (3:30 p.m.) and Dane Dunford and Mark Storey (4:15 p.m.).

061575 23. Items discussed included local options, NACO contract purchasing, Olympia politics, Senator Sheahan, Nationwide Retirement plan, farm worker housing, CFO, tort reform, I-747, Quitman and county recording systems. No action taken.

5:00 p.m. - Recess.

D061575A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **September 16, 2003** at **2:00 p.m.** G.R. "Jerry" Finch, Chairman, Les Wigen, Commissioner and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended. Commissioner Partch is attending a joint planning meeting.

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

Present: Fran Martin and John Skyles.

D061575B 1. Ms. Martin shared an Emergency Management display created by the Department and a 72-hour survival kit purchased from the American Red Cross for \$35.00. She requested authorization to set up the display in the foyer of the Courthouse for one week. Brochures that include the same information as the display have also been developed for distribution. The commissioners raised no objections to the request.

D061575C 2. Mr. Skyles and Ms. Martin attended an emergency management meeting with the 10 disciplines that are writing the Threat Assessment Vulnerability Study.

They performed a countywide vulnerability assessment and determined true potential threats for Whitman County are buildings and events. Narrowing down the non-prioritized list further, the Courthouse is in the top 10.

Each discipline will perform an assessment to determine if they are prepared in the event of a disaster. All discipline assessments must be completed by September 30th and will be entered into a database. Upon conclusion of the assessment, an equipment/clothing list will be developed.

Two contamination centers will be purchased for the hospitals. These units will have the ability to decontaminate 100 people per hour. In addition, the Hazmat Team will also receive a portable decontamination unit.

The bioterrorism component is ready to add to the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Ms. Martin offered the commissioners the use of the Emergency management display board and 72-hour survival kit for other meetings.

2:20 p.m. - Dr. Moody.

D061575D 3. Ms. Martin pointed out that the Emergency Management ordinance is in the revision process.

D061575E 4. Dr. Moody talked about the outbreak of viral meningitis cases around the state; the presumptive case of West Nile Virus that came back negative; an upswing in the amount of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) cases; a measles case brought to Whitman County via an overseas flight; and Flu vaccine will be available in October.

D061575F 5. John Skyles talked about cases of Viral Gastoral Inneritis at a WSU fraternity causing illness in 10 members. The Department is still investigating.

D061575G 6. Mr. Skyles updated the Board on the dam construction at Rock Creek by Mr. Bailey. DOE said since there was a historical dam on the site, Mr. Bailey may have the ability to reconstruct the dam. If the complainants want to pursue this issue further, they must do so through the civil process. The dam flooded their pastureland and contaminated their well.

D061575H 7. Two cases of cats that caught bats were received. The cat owners were concerned about rabies and their cats being infected. The Department was unable to capture the bats for testing. The State will not test animals involved in a bite unless there is a human exposure. Therefore, the cats were not tested but could be infected. Dr. Moody pointed out neither cat had been vaccinated against rabies.

D061575I 8. Mr. Skyles reported that DOE is still investigating the illegal dumping of materials in northeastern Whitman County.

D061575J 9. Ms. Martin reminded the commissioners this is Food Safety Month. Mr. Skyles added educational and promotional information has been distributed.

D061575K 10. The Department is working with Rory Johnson of Spokane County Health District to provide a "fall prevention" program for Whitman County senior citizens. This will be tied into the current Senior Nutrition program.

D061575L 11. The Department is anticipating another grant from USDA for helping people with medical coupons/food stamps to help them understand nutritious diets on the food pyramid and preparing healthy food.

D061575M 12. Ms. Martin said the nurses are back in all the schools but one schools nursing hours were reduced because of a nursing shortage.

D061575N 13. The Director updated the commissioners on the Access to Baby and Children Dentistry (ABCD) program noting a dental hygienist has been hired for this program.

The Department also qualifies for an administrative match. Fifty (50%) percent of the grant money used for this program will be reimbursed back to the department. They will also be charging for varnish applications. This should allow the department to keep the program running.

The good news is this was a partnership with Asotin, Columbia, Garfield and Whitman Counties. A University of Washington doctor will train local dentists from the 4 counties on September 26th on how to work with small children.

Ms. Martin is also considering extending the program to Idaho.

D061575O 14. The Tooth Tutor curriculum will continue again this year in all schools.

D061575P 15. The next meeting of the Board of Health is October 21st.

3:00 p.m. - Recess.

D061575Q THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **September 19, 2003** at **9:15 a.m.** G.R. "Jerry" Finch, Chairman, Greg Partch, and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

9:15 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/Workshop.

Present: Mary Selecky, Marie Flake, Fran Martin, Dr. Moody,

D061575R 24. Items discussed included general public health related issues. No action taken.

11:00 a.m. - Adjournment.

D061575S Commissioner Partch **moved** to adjourn the **September 15, 16 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 **September 22, 2003**. The foregoing action made this **19th** day of **September 2003**.

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

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

G.R. FINCH, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners