

## Minutes for September 18, 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.

**065887 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **September 18, 2006** at **9:00 a.m.** G.R. Finch, Chairman, Greg Partch, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

**9:00 a.m. - Call to Order/Board Business/BOCC Workshop.**

Present: Dane Dunford.

**065888 1.** Items discussed included Public Works staffing and Barlass letter. No action taken.

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

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

Present: Sharron Cunningham and Ryan Bentley.

**D065888A 2. Motion** by Commissioner Partch to approve the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried**.

**065889 3.** Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **195045-195182** and **195185-195201** for **\$624,025.72** approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	38,860.60	7,376.80	411,460.77
102	Building & Development	1,29.20		
103	Countywide Planning	1,196.40		424.54
110	County Roads	14,070.80	2,050.00	3,376.41
111	CETC Building			138.75
126	Treasurer's M&O			237.16
127	Drug Enforcement-Quad City	400.00		
135	Prosecutor's Stop Grant			2,925.87
300	Cap. Projects Asset Acq.-300.010.001			1,500.63
400	Solid Waste	3,828.40		5,842.31
410	Solid Waste Reserve			
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	4,544.80	450.00	59,817.39
510	Photocopier Revolving			1,054.15
660	Whitcom-General-660.911.000			2,372.73
660	Whitcom-Grant Funding-660.911.001			50,190.86
690	Clearing Fund 690.005.000			10,677.15

**065890 4.** September 11, 2006 minutes approved.

065891-065899 5. Personnel board orders approved.

065900 6. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize publishing a notice for the 3<sup>rd</sup> budget amendment.

065901 7. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve a resolution establishing an Emergency Communications Systems Fund.

**RESOLUTION NO. 065901**  
**OF**  
**THE BOARD OF WHITMAN 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 Monday, September 18, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Whitman County, State of Washington recognizes the need for an Emergency Communication Systems Fund to track the voted one-tenth of one percent started July 1, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners believe that a separate fund is the proper procedure to account for these revenues and expenditures.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT HEREBY RESOLVED that an Emergency Communication Systems Fund numbered 144.260.001 be hereby created.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of September 2006.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
G.R. Finch, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Partch, Commissioner

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maribeth Becker, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Les Wigen, Commissioner

065902 8. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to appoint Kathy Brown to a 4-year unexpired term representing professional personnel management and Bradley Loomis to a 3-year unexpired term representing Commissioner District I on the Citizens' Commission for Salaries for Elected Officials.

065903 9. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve a resolution establishing a CTED Victim-Witness Fund for the Prosecutor's office.

**RESOLUTION NO. 065903**  
**OF**  
**THE BOARD OF WHITMAN 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 Monday, September 18, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has authorized and funded the state Community Trade and Economic Development agency (CTED) to disperse funds to all counties, including Whitman County, to augment the County Prosecutor's victim-witness program; and

WHEREAS the Board of County Commissioners wishes to support the County Prosecutor's victim-witness program and this state funding provides a means of doing so at no cost to the County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners believe that a separate fund is the proper procedure to account for these revenues and expenditures.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that a "CTED Victim-Witness Fund", numbered 128.100.001, be hereby created.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of September 2006.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
G.R. Finch, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Partch, Commissioner

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maribeth Becker, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Les Wigen, Commissioner

065904 10. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize \$2,000 for Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee FY 2006-07 dues.

065905 11. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** approve a grant application data form for the Sheriff's Meth Initiative grant in the amount of \$1,658.85.

**BOCC MINUTES-09/18/06**

**065906** 12. An email was received from Eric Johnson, WSAC regarding ESSB 5385 creating the Washington State Invasive Species Council.

**065907** 13. A letter was received from the Attorney General's office regarding reducing identity theft in Washington State.

**D065907A** 14. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

**10:30 a.m. - Whitman County Code, Title 2 Hearing.**

Present: Thinh Nguyen and Ryan Bentley.

**065908** The Chairman convened the hearing for proposed revisions to Whitman County Code Title 2.

Maribeth Becker reported some of the chapters proposed for repeal must remain at this time because they are referenced in other county documents. For that reason the Clerk recommended the hearing be continued for one week.

The commissioners went on to review all other proposed changes.

The hearing was recessed to 1 p.m.

**10:50 a.m. - Rob Buchert, Palouse Conservation District.**

Present: Thinh Nguyen and Ryan Bentley.

**065909** Mr. Buchert thanked the commissioners for they're past support and sponsorship of the Palouse Water Summit. He thought the summit was an excellent opportunity for both the decision-makers and citizens in Whitman County to provide input on the future management of our local water resources as well as gather information from the people who are all working toward that end; PBAC, WRIA, Moscow, Protect Our Water, Palouse Water Conservation Network.

This summit has become a call to action. The format will provide a means for everyone to put their issues on the table and find a way to channel those issues to the appropriate decision-making body, such as the county commissioners, PBAC, WRIA, etc.

This will be an active working meeting with possibly some commitment between now and next year on what to do with the issues placed on the table. The summit is not intended as a replacement for PBAC or WRIA. It is a means to respond to collective input.

The outcome is to receive everyone's opinions, determine what information is lacking and determine if there is a water problem or not. Realizing economic growth is very important to Pullman, Whitman County and Moscow, is

**BOCC MINUTES-09/18/06**

there a way to achieve economic growth and conserve our water resources. Moscow's insecurities are based on the fact we don't know if there is a water problem or not.

The only way to answer the question "are there things that can be done to insure growth that will not have a detrimental effect on our water resources" is to perform a detailed study on the corridor.

After further discussion, Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize \$500 for the Palouse Water Summit to be held October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

Present: Mark Storey, Cindi Lepper, Thinh Nguyen and Ryan Bentley.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Administration Division:**

**065910** 1. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried to** publish the notice of intent to sell surplus (Public Works) county property.

**Solid Waste Division:**

**065911** 2. Cindi Lepper gave a brief report on recycling events at the Fair.

- There were 23 entries for Recycled Art, prizes awarded in 4 different divisions; Best of Show was given to an individual who created a purse using Capri Sun pouches, a non-recyclable product,
- 307 computer key chains, 497 recycling coloring books and 500 pins made from recycled rubber were given away during the Fair,
- 13 sets of recycling containers were placed around the Fairgrounds with no contamination problems, 169 pounds of aluminum cans collected as compared to 37 pounds in 2005, 367 pounds of plastic collected as compared to 11 pounds in 2005, cardboard was also collected,
- SWAC rented wall space in the Community Building to display a poster and distribute recycling brochures made from recycled paper using soy ink.

**D065911A** 3. The fall cleanup program begins October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The law requires loads be secured. Drivers with unsecured loads run the risk of being ticketed. There is a great deal of pressure by the Department of Ecology to issue tickets at the scale house for unsecured loads. There are secured load signs on the highway and on the county road leading to the Landfill, brochures and pamphlets at the scale house are handed out along with plastic bags that talk about secured loads and the consequences for unsecured loads.

**Engineering Division:**

**BOCC MINUTES-09/18/06**

**065912 4.** Public Works awarded a quote for guardrail on the Wilhelm and Brink bridges to Frank Gurney, Inc. of Spokane Valley for \$18,000.

**D065912A 5.** According to the engineer, the Almota Road contractor is in rock hauling phase of the project.

**D065912B 6.** The SR 270 contractor removed the Sunshine Road Bridge; work will begin shortly. The road will be reopened sometime in December but the total project will not be completed until 2007.

**Maintenance Division:**

**D065912C 7.** Director Dunford said centerline and edgeline striping would continue through September provided it doesn't rain. On the other hand, moisture is needed for grading roads.

**Administrative Division:**

**065913 8.** Chairman Finch read the Director's letter of resignation effective October 31<sup>st</sup>. The commissioners thanked Mr. Dunford for his 32 years of dedicated service to the county. Mr. Dunford responded that it has been a great career and a pleasure to serve the board and Whitman County.

**11:30 a.m. - Sharron Cunningham, Administrative Services.**

Present: Joe Reynolds, Janet Schmidt, Doug Robinson, Fran Martin, Kelli Campbell, Kim Kopf, Denis Tracy, Dane Dunford, Bob Lothspeich, Marlynn Markley, Eileen Roe, Mark Storey, Thinh Nguyen, Ryan Bentley.

The following individuals contacted the Clerk of the Board regarding their absence from today's meeting: Tim Myers, Bev Welch and Eunice Coker.

**065914 1.** The August 2006 ending financial report provided by Ms. Cunningham.

August 2006 Cash Balance - \$1,881,873

August 2005 Cash Balance - \$1,147,606

August 2006 Revenue - \$6,537,120 - 57.13% of budget.

August 2005 Revenue - \$5,620,344 - 56.06% of budget.

August 2006 Expenditures \$6,501,064 - 58.10% of budget.

August 2005 Expenditures \$5,928,712 - 58.36% of budget.

**D065914A 2.** Chairman Finch presented a certificate of appreciation to Fran Martin in recognition of her outstanding performance as Emergency Management Director with respect to the August 23, 2006 Palouse River fire.

**11:50 a.m. - Recess.**

**1:05 p.m. - Whitman County Code Title 2.**

**BOCC MINUTES-09/18/06**

Present: Tinh Nguyen.

**D065914B** Chairman Finch reconvened the above noted hearing and continued reviewing the proposed revisions.

No comments received from those in attendance.

Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to continue the hearing to 10:30 a.m. on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**1:30 p.m. - Mike Berney, Palouse River Counseling Center/Greater Columbia Behavioral Health.**

Present: Tinh Nguyen.

**065915** 1. Mr. Berney discussed the proposed Ombudsman and Residential contracts and an amendment to the contract with Behavioral Health Options (BHO) for additional care management (EPSDT) services. The two contracts would continue services already in place with the same agencies that have provided the services in the past. The amendment adds an EPSDT review to the other care management duties already contracted to BHO. This is primarily a housekeeping matter. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize the GCBH Board Chair to sign both new contracts and the amendment.

**D065915A** 2. The Director explained proposed new contracts (PHIP and State) for public Mental Health services between GCBH and member governments/providers required follow up. This is the step that takes certain contract terms from item #1 and passes them contractually to the member governments/providers. An item in this proposed contract "Post a multilingual notice that advises consumers that "all" written materials are available in Cambodian, Chinese, Korean, Laotian, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese" is going to be very difficult/expensive to comply with for very little actual benefit to consumers. All other counties were of similar mind with Whitman County. A compromise was reached by removing the word "all". The GCBH voted against authorizing the Board Chair to sign these contracts if the term "all" remains.

**D065915B** 3. Mr. Berney talked about proposed PATH contracts first with GCBH and then passed down to Lourdes Counseling Center and CWCMHC. These contracts are for a specialized program in Benton, Franklin, and Yakima Counties. This is a housekeeping matter. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to support authorizing the GCBH Chair to sign these (4) contracts.

**D065915C** 4. A new Eastside Evaluation and Treatment Facility may now be a moot point since the timeline has expired for this round.

**BOCC MINUTES-09/18/06**

**D065915D 5.** Approval of eleven new and/or revised GCBH policies are on the GCBH Board agenda. Most of the policies are straightforward and not controversial. The policies that are controversial or of concern include out of network referrals. Mr. Berney has seen new and/or revised wording for 8 of the policies. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to recommend adoption of all listed policies except for the Out of Network Referrals policy.

**D065915E 6.** For many years the psychiatric inpatient usage in Benton and Franklin Counties, as measured by bed days used per 1,000 of population, has been much higher than anywhere else within Greater Columbia. This much higher than average usage impacts the other GCBH Counties and it is likely this impact will be increasing. Benton and Franklin Counties have been asked to develop a plan on how they will address this issue. There is an agenda item regarding this topic but Mr. Berney did not anticipate any formal action at the Board meeting.

**D065915F 7.** GCBH staff continues researching the cost of using a recruiter service through the RFP process for the GCBH Director position.

**D065915G 8.** Mr. Berney had no new information to report regarding the GCBH Regional Advisory Board request that their chairperson be a voting member of the Board of Directors.

**D065915H 9.** Mr. Berney spoke about an email from Asotin County Commissioner Doug Mattoon regarding Pierce County's letter to the Mental Health Division questioning their dispute resolution process in the contract. According to the contract, the dispute resolution process allows the Mental Health Division Director to be the final arbiter of any dispute. A question may be raised as to should GCBH send a letter of support to Pierce County. Mr. Berney wondered if the commissioners have a particular position regarding this issue. Commissioner Partch said he would stand behind Pierce County.

**D065915I 10.** The second quarter report was submitted for Chemical Dependency prior to the due date.

**D065915J 11.** A copy of the independent audit has not yet been received but once available, Mr. Berney will forward a copy to the commissioners.

**D065915K 12.** The new Harvest House facility, located next door to PRCC, is progressing.

**2:00 p.m. - Board of Health.**

Present: Fran Martin and John Skyles.

**D065915L 1.** John Skyles discussed the E-Coli found in the Rosalia water supply. They were doing some work on the line and de-watered the system.

**BOCC MINUTES-09/18/06**

In doing so, any leak or opening results in a negative pressure and he believes that is what caused the problem.

Commissioner Partch said normally it would not be an issue, but on top of the spinach E-Coli scare, he wished the differences in E-Coli strains had been explained on television so as not to panic the public.

John Skyles concurred and added E-Coli is the common part of the intestinal floor of mammals, lizards, reptiles and birds and is in the environment. It is just an indicator of contamination. The fact there is E-Coli and not just whole chloroform infusers in fecal material are not necessarily pathogenic E-Coli.

The school was temporarily closed but has since reopened. They are using bottled water and no city water for food preparation. Hand washing is okay using city hot water and soap followed up with a sanitizer prevents a very minimal risk. There is a very slight chance this is a pathogenic E-Coli.

**D065915M 2.** Prior to the spinach E-Coli incident, Mr. Skyles received a report of an isolated pathogenic E-Coli case in Pullman with no particular risk factors or common denominators.

**D065915N 3.** Public Health's new registered sanitarian will soon be coming on line replacing Ben Tarbutton.

**D065915O 4.** The Prosecutor has been communicating with Mr. Harston on the solid waste issue in Thornton. Public Health is following up on this case.

**D065915P 5.** Ms. Martin spoke about the bioterrorism and pandemic flu display at the Palouse Empire Fair. Public Health promoted hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes. Staff plans to visit schools and other types of community meetings using their display board.

**D065915Q 6.** Whitman County representatives attended Pullman's Emergency Management Committee meeting. It was agreed to consolidate the county and city committees. This group will oversee all types of emergency plans including the county's Pandemic Flu Plan. Once reviewed by the committee, the commissioners would set a hearing for addendum inclusion in the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

**D065915R 7.** In October Ms. Martin will attend the Superintendents meeting. The topic of discussion will be school incident plans and an interagency agreement for Emergency Management to use one of the school facilities for people who are ill in the event of an outbreak. She noted the Red Cross only accepts people who are not ill.

**D065915S 8.** The school nurses' hours are the same as last year in total, but some hours have been adjusted within the individual schools and ESD 101

**BOCC MINUTES-09/18/06**

depending on the need. Lamont Middle School is provided nursing services by the Sprague School nurse.

**D065915T 9.** If Public Health receives enough flu vaccines Ms. Martin would like to test a portion of the Pandemic Flu Plan by performing mass immunizations.

**D065915U 10.** Ms. Martin pointed out Public Health releases information to the general public about an illness only after a case is confirmed positive with appropriate documentation. This is done to avoid public alarm.

**D065915V 11.** According to the Director, staff is gearing up for the document preservation program.

**D065915W 12.** The next Board of Health meeting is October 17<sup>th</sup>.

**2:30 p.m. - Board Business Continued.**

Present: Fran Martin, Public Health/Emergency Management Director.

**D065915X 15.** Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to go into executive session with the above individual until 3:15 p.m. for personnel matters.

**3:15 p.m. - Return to Open Session/BOCC Workshop.**

Present: Kelli Campbell.

**D065915Y 16.** Items discussed included medical insurance issues. No action taken.

**4:15 p.m. - Adjournment.**

**D065915Z** Commissioner Partch **moved** to adjourn the **September 18, 2006** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in their Chambers', in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington, on **September 25, 2006**. The foregoing action made this **18<sup>th</sup>** day of **September 2006**.

ss/ Greg PARTCH, Commissioner

---

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

---

G.R. FINCH, CHAIRMAN  
Board of County Commissioners