

## Minutes for September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003

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**061597 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **September 29, 2003** at **10:00 a.m.** G.R. "Jerry" Finch, Chairman, Greg Partch, and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

**10:00 a.m. - Board Business.**

**D061597A 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.**

Present: Brett Bosse and Kelli Campbell.

**D061597B 2. Motion** by Commissioner Wigen to approve the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried**.

**061598 3. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered 154216-164307 for \$210,497.97** approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	62,302.22
102	Building & Development	141.66
103	Countywide Planning	299.76
110	County Roads	7,740.96
118	Inmate Welfare	70.10
126	Treasurer's M&O	53.14
127	Drug Enforcement	6,163.40
135	Prosecutor's Stop Grant	11.15
137	Web Site Development	158.25
400	Solid Waste	3,176.82
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	4,923.43
513	Communications Revolving	283.23
690	Clearing & Suspense	125,173.85

**061599 4. September 22, 2003 minutes approved.**

**061600 5. Personnel board orders approved.**

**061601 6. Motion** by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to accept and sign the countywide petty cash funds resolution.

**RESOLUTION NO. 061601**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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WHEREAS, the Board of Whitman County Commissioners met in regular session on the **29th** day of **September 2003**; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Whitman County, State of Washington, recognizes the need and requirement of regulating the various petty cash/cash drawer/revolving accounts in all county funds; and,

WHEREAS, the responsibility for the various petty cash/cash drawer/revolving accounts must be entrusted to specific individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the following are the revised petty cash/cash drawer/revolving accounts for Whitman County:

<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>FUND NO.</b>	<b>BARS CODE</b>	<b>CUSTODIAN</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
Public Health, Colfax	\$70.00	001.000.000	111.70.02	Robin Cocking	Petty Cash/Front Desk
Public Health, Colfax	\$40.00	001.000.000	111.70.02	Robin Cocking	Cash Drawer
Public Health, Colfax	\$100.00	001.000.000	111.77.02	Robin Cocking	Petty Cash/Postage
Public Health, Colfax	\$50.00	001.000.000	111.70.02	Pauline Anderson	Cash Drawer
Public Health, Pullman	\$100.00	001.000.000	111.70.18	Shannon Hatley	Petty Cash
Public Health, Pullman	\$70.00	001.000.000	111.70.18	Shannon Hatley	Cash Drawer
Public Health, Pullman	\$99.00	001.000.000	111.77.02	Shannon Hatley	Petty Cash/Postage
Prosecutor	\$260.00	001.000.000	111.70.15	Dorothy Talley	Petty Cash/Postage
Prosecutor	\$100.00	001.000.000	111.70.09	Dorothy Talley	Petty Cash
District Court	\$96.00	001.000.000	111.77.03	Kristina Cooper	Petty Cash
District Court, Colfax	\$50.00	001.000.000	111.70.03	Kristina Cooper	Cash Drawer
District Court, Pullman	\$50.00	001.000.000	111.70.03	Virginia Walker	Cash Drawer
Parks & Rec.-Colfax	\$200.00	001.000.000	111.70.04	Terry Jeffries	Petty Cash
Parks & Rec.-Fairgrounds	\$25.00	001.000.000	111.70.04	Craig Danielson	Cash Drawer
Parks & Rec.-Kamiak Butte	\$25.00	001.000.000	111.70.04	Roger Marcus	Cash Drawer
Parks & Rec., Wawawai	\$25.00	001.000.000	111.70.04	Bart Dearborn	Cash Drawer
Auditor, Auto Licensing	\$400.00	001.000.000	111.70.05	Eunice Coker	Cash Drawer
Auditor, Legal Filing	\$100.00	001.000.000	111.70.05	Eunice Coker	Cash Drawer
Auditor, Elections	\$200.00	001.000.000	111.77.05	Debbie Hooper	Petty Cash/Postage
Auditor	\$5,000.00	001.000.000	111.00.10	Eunice Coker	Revolving
Facilities Maintenance	\$50.00	001.000.000	111.70.04	Janel Goebel	Petty Cash
Clerk	\$50.00	001.000.000	111.70.13	Shirley Bafus	Cash Drawer
Superior Court	\$33.00	001.020.000	111.77.19	Eileen Roe	Petty Cash
Sheriff, Drug Task Force	\$30,000.00	127.140.000	111.77.01	Brett Myers	Revolving
Sheriff	\$400.00	001.000.000	111.77.01	Brett Myers	Revolving
Public Works	\$150.00	110.400.000	111.70.10	Judy McMurray	Petty Cash
Solid Waste	\$300.00	400.400.000	111.70.06	Charlotte Mundell	Cash Drawer
Treasurer	\$900.00	999.000.000	111.70.11	Donna Poland	Cash Drawer
Treasurer, Advance Travel	\$15,000.00	999.000.000	111.00.21	Lana Cloaninger	Revolving

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SIGNED this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 2003.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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

ATTEST:

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

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

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

**061602 7. Motion** by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to authorize the Chairman to sign an interagency agreement between Whitcom and Whitman County Emergency Management.

**10:05 a.m.** - John Peterson.

**061603 8.** Chairman Finch said the issue of county liability and personal property insurance issue was before the Board to decide if Whitman County will remain with the Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) or switch to the Rural Counties Risk Pool (RCRP). Very complete presentations were made by the two organizations; both were very compelling making the decision very difficult.

**Motion** by Commissioner Partch to switch the county's liability and personal property insurance to the Rural Counties Risk Pool saving Whitman County a substantial amount of money. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen.

Commissioner Wigen commented the RCRP could provide a \$60,000 annual savings. In the last year, Whitman County has been assessed \$85,000 in addition to the regular premium. In reviewing the RCRP's client list, it includes 120 school districts, 109 cities, 93 fire districts and 8 counties. He liked the fact that the agent is located in Pullman and for \$1,936 the Sheriff's vehicles can be insured for physical damage, which was not included in WCRP's proposal.

Chairman Finch said one thing that does concern him is that the WCRP has very high liability (malpractice) insurance on the Public Health physician. If the county proceeds with the RCRP, an additional policy would have to be purchased for the Public Health physician.

Commissioner Partch stated WCRP has done a very good job for Whitman County.

The Chairman concurred adding he is pleased with both organizations. There are pros/cons with both, but he would be comfortable with either

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organization. With skyrocketing costs for all types of insurance, he has a responsibility to the citizens of Whitman County; \$60,000 is real money, but based on the size of the county's total budget, this is not an astronomical amount. He pointed out Whitman County has had a great working relationship with WCRP over the past several years. He has spoken to commissioners whose counties are insured by both organizations and he reiterated his comfortable level with choosing either organization.

The WCRP assessed Whitman County with a \$535,000 retro-assessment based on loss experience. However, the same thing could happen with the RCRP. But historically, RCRP has never done so. They have just raised the rates accordingly. This year RCRP took a 15% rate increase and WCRP had a 6% rate increase. Until the state addresses tort reform, more and more public monies will go towards paying insurance and attorneys rather than providing essential services.

Commissioner Partch said he probably spent more time thinking about, discussion and reading the information than he has on any other issues for a long time because this is such a critical decision.

With WCRP, Whitman County must pay \$85,000 for the next 5 years. However, the RCRP is not experienced rated but uses a stop loss method.

The biggest reason he is willing to make the switch is because RCRP is truly rural county oriented. He thought the WCRP got away from their rural nature and has taken on some of the larger counties highly impacting the rural counties. By switching to RCRP, Whitman County would be in a league with other rural counties. He did have a problem with liability limits of \$11 million annually and \$20 million per case, but in a rural county he thought that was justifiable.

John Peterson interjected there is still \$20 million liability with employment practices at WCRP and \$5 million with RCRP. Also, if the county chooses to leave WCRP, Whitman County could still be liable for any further assessments as of the date they leave. The county would also lose the good years that could translate to approximately \$187,000.

Commissioner Partch stated the \$60,000 annual savings with RCRP even with the approximate \$10,000 policy for the Public Health physician still provides a \$50,000 annual savings and the reasons he will vote to make the switch.

The motion passed **unanimously**.

John Peterson was instructed to contact both risk pools to advise them of the commissioners' decision.

**061604** 9. The 2004 county employee medical insurance issue was tabled to October 6<sup>th</sup> allowing additional review time.

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**061605** 10. **Motion** by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to enter into an interlocal agreement between Lewis, Chelan, Pacific, San Juan and Whitman Counties for grant administration.

**10:20 a.m.** - Tammy Lewis.

**061606** 11. A letter was received from Royce Johnson, Mayor of Farmington resigning his positions on the Whitman County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) and Palouse River Watershed Planning Unit (WRIA 34). **Motion** by Commissioner Partch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to sign a letter to Mr. Johnson accepting his resignations.

**061607** 12. A proclamation signed by the Governor was received designating October 5-11, 2003 as Mental Illness Awareness Week.

**061608** 13. Documentation associated with a preliminary plat application for Sundance Subdivision submitted by Ron Beasley was received from the City of Pullman. Commissioner Partch said this plat application basically corresponds as a logical development area in Pullman by the Joint Planning Committee, which had been discussed between Pullman and the county. Chairman Finch indicated this is a very positive thing for Pullman.

**D061608A** 14. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

**10:30 a.m.** - **Bev Welch, Information Services Director.**

Present: Dane Dunford, Mark Storey, Brett Bosse and Tammy Lewis.

**061609** Ms. Welch brought up a future water problem issue in the back storage area of the new Information Services (IS) building.

Mr. Dunford explained Bob Anderson, Mark Storey and he noticed the back storage area of the building has settled over time in such a way that there is nothing to prevent the room from filling up with water. It appears the floor needs to be raised so it can be used for the intended purpose of housing computers and paper. The cost is \$600-\$700 for the concrete and he offered his department to do the work noting this needs to be done now while weather permits. Mr. Dunford felt this is a minute issue for a building that will be used for the next 50-70 years.

Chairman Finch said the building previously had a common floor sump but it has since been covered through the remodeling process. It is easier to divert the water now rather than trying to eliminate it after the building is occupied and becomes a nuisance.

In addition, Ms. Welch said the roll-up garage door must be adjusted (\$120) after the cement work is completed and a current 3' windowed door replaced

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with a 4' steel door (\$870) that previously had water problems in the concrete outside the door.

Commissioner Partch **moved** to approve the above requests not to exceed \$2,000 to be deducted from the bond fund and the cement purchased from Pullman Premix as Chairman Finch requested. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen.

**10:45 a.m. - Dane Dunford, Public Works Director.**

Present: Mark Storey, Cindi Lepper, Brett Bosse and Tammy Lewis.

**Solid Waste Division:**

**D061609A 1.** The Director noted that fall cleanup brought in 200 tons of waste via 315 vehicles, half of which arrived on Saturday. In 2002, 120 tons was collected. Chairman Finch said the residents of Whitman County should be proud that the waste is ending up at the Transfer Station and not on the roadsides. The spring and fall cleanups give our residents an opportunity to dispose of waste at a reasonable cost and they take advantage of these opportunities.

**061610 2.** Mr. Dunford said an email was received from the Department of Ecology (DOE) regarding the CPG grant. As discussed previously, this is a competitive grant.

Ms. Lepper stated one week after the grant application was signed and submitted an email was received that the Governor had vetoed DOE's appropriation authority for the 2003-2005 biennium thereby creating a funding shortfall statewide for CPG grants. The reduction for Whitman County is \$3,870 for the biennium. The DOE will make the adjustment for Whitman County and will again request the funds from the legislature in January. If their efforts are successful, DOE will return each county's reduction amount.

Commissioner Partch suggested Ms. Lepper look into this further because he thought these funds are earmarked for CPG grants from taxes paid by producers. If this is the case, the Board needs to visit with the local legislators.

**Engineering Division:**

**D061610A 3.** According to the Engineer, the contractor is making good progress on the Endicott Road; girders will be set on the Wassum Bridge tomorrow morning.

**Maintenance Division:**

**D061610B 4.** The Director advised road striping on selected county roads is continuing.

**11:00 a.m. - Recess.**

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**1:30 p.m. - Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.**

Present: Bob Lothspeich, Joe Reynolds and Eunice Coker (1:30 p.m.).

**061611 15.** Items discussed included 2004 budget/elected officials' salaries. No action taken.

**2:00 p.m. - Haun Stockpile Site Crushing Bids.**

Present: Dane Dunford, Mark Storey, Phil Meyer, Julie Banks and 5 bidders.

**061612** The following bids were received, opened, and read aloud. Staff will make a recommendation for award on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

SHAWNEE ROCK, INC.	\$151,500.80
SEUBERT EXCAVATORS	\$306,175.80
DEATLEY CRUSHING	\$248,825.00

**2:30 p.m. - Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop Continued.**

**D061612A 16.** Items discussed included the Farmington demolition bill, "Facing the Future" forum, Avista letter, WSAC/WACO conference, knife in Courthouse, panic buttons, City of Colfax surplus sale letter, map overlays from Whitcom and an anonymous letter about solicitations in the Courthouse. No action taken.

**3:15 p.m. - Adjournment.**

**D061612B** Commissioner Partch **moved** to adjourn the **September 29, 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 **October 6, 2003**. The foregoing action made this **29th** day of **September 2003**.

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

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MARIBETH BECKER, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

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G.R. FINCH, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners