

Minutes for September 30, 2013

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074627 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Monday, September 30, 2013** at **8:30 a.m.** Chairman Michael Largent, Arthur Swannack and Dean Kinzer, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

8:30 a.m. - Call to Order/Board Business/BOCC Workshop.

Present: Gary Petrovich, Kelli Campbell and Sally Ousley (9:00 a.m.) and Bill McKee (8:40 a.m.).

074628 1. Items discussed included road name change request, flood insurance, Coal Train scoping hearing, Martin Hall, Workforce Development, EWCOG, Booker Auction, budget review process, 2014 health insurance, Classification Committee recommendation, VEBA, Human Resources temporary help, committee application form, Critical Areas ordinance and PMAG. No action taken.

9:15 a.m. - Recess.

9:30 a.m. - Board Business Continued/Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mark Storey, Phil Meyer, Troy Henderson, Bob Lothspeich, Kelli Campbell, Sally Ousley and Bill McKee.

D074628A 2. Flag Salute.

D074628B 3. Motion by Commissioner Swannack to accept the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Kinzer and **carried**.

074629 4. General Claims/Veterans/Payroll warrants numbered **306131-306158** for **\$286,098.98** and **306162-306280** for **\$145,180.38** approved.

074630 5. September 16, 2013 minutes approved.

074631-074636 6. Personnel change orders approved.

074637 7. Commissioner Kinzer **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize the contract with Booker Auctions for the sale of the CETC Building pending Prosecutor review.

074638 8. Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize the Chairman to sign 3rd quarter 2013 PDC lobbying report.

074639 9. Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to appoint Dean Craig to a 3-year term on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee effective 01/01/14.

074640 10. Commissioner Kinzer **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to reappoint Michael Largent to a 2-year term on the LEOFF I Board expiring 12/31/15.

9:35 a.m. - Dan LeBeau.

074641 11. Commissioner Kinzer **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and it **carried** that Whitman County join the Eastern Washington Council of Government.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE UPPER)	RESOLUTION NO. <u>074641</u>
COLUMBIA RIVER AREA)	ADOPTING ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
)	AND BYLAWS FOR THE EASTERN
)	WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, the Board previously has resolved to call for the formation of a county coalition to be formed by the counties of the Upper Columbia River area; and,

WHEREAS, the Boards of other contiguous counties in the Upper Columbia River area have resolved to call for the formation of such a coalition; and,

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the counties have a shared objective to protect the health, safety and welfare of their citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is in the county's interest to organize said coalition for the public purpose of understanding and addressing issues of common concern in a cooperative and efficient manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Board of County Commissioners supports and adopts the Articles of Association and Bylaws of the Upper Columbia Working Group for Responsible Stewardship, the purpose of which will be to organize a coalition of counties, similarly situated, to address issues of common concern effecting the health, safety and welfare of our respective citizens.

Passed by the Board of County Commissioners meeting in regular session at Colfax, Washington, by the following vote, then signed by its membership and attested to by its Clerk in authorization of such passage on the 30th day of September 2013.

YEA 3 NAY 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 0

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Michael Largent, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arthur D Swannack, Commissioner

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Dean Kinzer, Commissioner

074642 **12.** Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the 2014 WCIF Master applications for the following employee groups: Non-represented employees, Courthouse Bargaining Unit, Road Bargaining Unit, Solid Waste Bargaining Unit, Correction Officer and Support Staff Bargaining Unit, Deputy Sheriff's Association and LEOFF I Retirees.

074643 **13.** Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to apply "Essential Status" to the Public Works Road Heavy Equipment Operator classification effective October 1, 2013.

074644 **14.** Commissioner Kinzer **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the updated VEBA Service Group Employer adoption agreement as presented.

074645 **15.** A copy of a letter sent to Mike Kuttel, DOE was noted as received from Dennis and Jan Moore regarding a water issue.

074646 **15A.** Notice of the closure of the Alderman Mobile Home Park in Steptoe was received.

074647 **16.** Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

9:55 a.m. - Recess.

10:00 a.m. - Meeting Reconvene/Board Business Continued/2014 Health Care.

Present: Beth Glover of PayneWest (via phone), Kelli Campbell, Evon Jones, Mark Storey, Lori Nails, Gary Petrovich, David Nails, Jamie Kinley, Debbie Hooper, Karen Bafus, Mike Dale, Mike Roberds, Lindsey Stovall, Sally Ousley and Bill McKee.

074648 **17.** Kelli Campbell said her intent today is to pick up where the September 16th meeting left off and Beth Glover representing PayneWest is on the phone. Based on the plans received, they have been narrowed down to two; WCIF and PEBB being a very close second. They are both pooled products, both offer Group Health of which the employees and providers are familiar and both should provide a higher level of service than Cigna currently provides.

Differences between WCIF and PEBB:

WCIF is an organization made by counties for counties. They tend to be very flexible and provide better assistance to the employees and well as insulation from claim problems. The organization has very high standards for administrative and regulatory requirements. Whitman County would be a member of the governing board and would have a vote on how the organization is structured and run.

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PEBB is also run by a board, the Public Employee Benefit Board with a 3rd party administrator and will provide a very decent level of service, but probably not as high as WCIF and one of the reason WCIF's is being recommended over PEBB.

The trade-off is that the out-of-pocket plan being suggested under PEBB is lower to the employee than the WCIF plan.

WCIF will provide the strongest overall package but PEBB will provide the lower out-of-pocket per employee because they are bearing the brunt of the premiums. The drawback is the lower level of service to the employee and county in comparison to WCIF.

Ms. Campbell noted as part of her recommendation the dental, vision, life and disability insurances would remain with WCIF. These are high level products and hold a lot of value. If the Board chooses to go with WCIF for 2014, all insurances would be with one organization.

WCIF's provider selection deadline is October 15th and PEBB is November 1st.

At the previous meeting Teamsters was included as an options. However, Teamster's is considering not covering any non-represented employees and will not provide an answer of acceptance or non-acceptance to Whitman County until they first determine if non-represented employees can be included in their plans.

Recommendations pending union negotiations:

1. WCIF as the county's 2014 medical carrier;
2. Strongly encourages developing a budget strategy to address the need for dependent care funding; and,
3. Consider raising the \$695 county contribution for 2014 medical insurance.

10:05 a.m. - Collette Dice, Cinnamon Brown, Eunice Coker, Chris Mathis, Erin Young, Denis Tracy and Chris Nelson.

Commissioner Largent wanted those in attendance to understand the Board is not taking a poll before making a decision. However he did want to hear from the employees comments. He wants to select an option and stay with that provider for a number of years for rate stability, an important factor for him and he was leaning towards WCIF. Ms. Campbell interjected over the past 3-4 years both WCIF and PEBB have had single digit rate increases.

Commissioner Swannack said since the beginning of the year there have been many requests for carriers to quote and those have now been slimmed down. Many providers said Whitman County's risk level is too high.

As the county's consultant, Ms. Glover suggested a long term strategy and selecting and remaining with one pooled carrier for several years.

Upon inquiry by Eunice Coker, Commissioner Largent confirmed WCIF is state certification.

Prosecutor Denis Tracy said the functions of his office can best be served by affordable, family health insurance coverage. He pointed out medical insurance played a large role in the 50% turn-over in his office this year.

David Nails asked the commissioners to consider all insurance components when making their decision for families. He added PEBB is a larger group and can spread the risk.

Commissioner Largent pointed out no matter what provider/product is selected it will never be the best product for every employee.

Employees inquired about:

- How long the county will be locked into a plan;
- Co-pays, deductibles, co-insurance, annual wellness check-ups;
- HSA for medical only high deductibles;
- County financial assistance towards dependent coverage;

Ms. Campbell mentioned additional pros/cons for both WCIF/PEBB:

- No dental and vision products are offered by PEBB;
- PEBB monthly surcharges;
- WCIF Premera pre-authorization is the employees responsibility;
- Lack of county voice with PEBB.
- As of 2014, pre-existing condition waiting periods no longer exist due to Health Care Act.

Commissioner Kinzer said he was leaning towards WCIF due to PEBB's surcharges. He sees the lower costs in some areas for PEBB, but at the same time that doesn't offset the benefits provided by WCIF at this time.

Commissioner Swannack said he also covers his family and would save \$80/month with PEBB. However, looking at it from the standpoint of what is best for the county, WCIF has no surcharges and provides better services. In addition, the county would have a better voice as compared to PEBB.

Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to select WCIF Group Health for 2014 as the county's medical provider pending union agreement.

10:35 a.m. - Recess.

11:00 a.m. - Meeting Reconvene/Board Business Continued.

Present: Mark Storey, Sally Ousley and Bill McKee.

ACTION ITEMS

074649 18. Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Kinzer **seconded** the motion and it **carried** that the Repp Quarry and Stockpile Site lease be signed as presented.

DIVISION UPDATES

Maintenance Division:

D074649A 19. The Little Goose Dam Road has sustained an estimated \$50,000-\$100,000 in weather related damages. Crews are working to repair the road for weeks.

D074649B 19A. In other areas crews are grading, cutting trees and paint striping will resume as weather allows. The guardrail project is on hold until supplies can be obtained.

D074649C 19B. The County has not yet received the release of funds for the Pullman Airport Road. Due to lateness in the construction season, the County will request a postponement until spring. If the delay is not authorized, this will be a gravel road during the winter.

D074649D 19C. The only thing not yet completed on the Colfax Airport Road is seeding and that will be done as weather permits.

Administrative Division:

D074649E 19D. The department is preparing for federal audits.

D074649F 19E. Mark Storey was congratulated on his appointment to the County Road Administration Board. His first meeting as a member of the Board is October 31st.

10:55 a.m. - Recess.

11:30 a.m. - Meeting Reconvene/Board Business Continued.

D074649G 20. Approved documents signed.

11:45 a.m. - Recess.

1:00 p.m. - Reconvene/Executive Session.

Present: Kelli Campbell and Gary and Valerie Hunt (via phone).

074650 21. Commissioner Kinzer **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to go into executive session with the above individuals until 2:00 p.m. in accordance with RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) for matters related to negotiations.

2:00 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Executive Session.

Present: Denis Tracy, Gary Petrovich and Mark Storey.

074651 22. Commissioner Kinzer **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to go into executive session with the above individuals until 3:00 p.m. in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for matters related to litigation.

3:00 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Recess.

D074651A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.** Chairman Michael Largent, Art Swannack and Dean Kinzer, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

9:00 a.m. - Meeting Reconvened/Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.

Present: Janet Schmidt.

074652 23. Long-term strategic planning discussed. No action taken.

10:45 a.m. - Recess.

D074652A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Tuesday, October 3, 2013** at **9:00 a.m.** Chairman Michael Largent, Art Swannack and Dean Kinzer, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

9:00 a.m. - Meeting Reconvened/Board Business Continued/Budget Review Workshop.

Present: Cinnamon Brown, Gary Petrovich, Bob Reynolds, Sally Ousley (8:00 a.m.), Troy Henderson, Pat Black (9:00 a.m.), Mark Storey, Evon Jones (10:00 a.m.) and Chris Nelson (11:00 a.m.).

074653 24. The 2014 departmental budgets reviewed. No action taken.

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

1:00 p.m. - Meeting Reconvened/Board Business Continued/Budget Review Workshop.

Present: Cinnamon Brown, Gary Petrovich, Janet Schmidt, Sally Ousley (1:00 p.m.), Kim Kopf (2:00 p.m.) and Maribeth Becker (2:30 p.m.).

D074653A 25. The 2014 departmental budgets reviewed. No action taken.

D074653B Commissioner Kinzer **moved** to adjourn the **September 30, October 1 and 3, 2013** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Swannack and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in their Chambers', in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington, on **October 7, 2013**. The foregoing action made this 1st day of October **2013**.

ss/ ARTHUR SWANNACK, COMMISSIONER
ss/ DEAN KINZER, COMMISSIONER

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

MICHAEL LARGENT, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners