

### Minutes for October 3, 2005

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**064540 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **October 3, 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.**

Present: Sharron Cunningham.

**064541 1.** Items discussed included history request, Jim Hudak's letter, Port's formal grant, historic courthouse, farmland preservation, computer RFP, WSU breakfast meeting, Pullman-Moscow Corridor, EAT Committee, WSU student activity fee and transportation district presentation. No action taken.

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

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

Present: Tammy Lewis and Kris Bunch.

**D064541A 2. Motion** by Commissioner Finch to approve the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

**064542 3.** Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **181998-182159** for **\$304,174.76** approved.

| FUND | FUND NAME                         | AMOUNT     |
|------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 001  | Current Expense                   | 53,133.34  |
| 102  | Building & Development            | 204.11     |
| 103  | Countywide Planning               | 115.83     |
| 110  | County Roads                      | 6,613.32   |
| 117  | Boating Safety                    | 89.00      |
| 118  | Inmate Welfare                    | 1,342.36   |
| 119  | Emergency Services                | 13,917.45  |
| 127  | Drug Enforcement-Quad City        | 523.05     |
| 132  | Auditor's Document Preservation   | 30.11      |
| 400  | Solid Waste                       | 102,849.68 |
| 501  | Equipment Rental & Revolving      | 6,927.76   |
| 513  | Communications Revolving          | 674.11     |
| 660  | Whitcom-General-660.911.000       | 71,539.62  |
| 660  | Whitcom-Grant Funding-660.911.001 | 32,768.82  |

BOCC MINUTES-10/03/05

|     |                                   |           |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 690 | Ernie Dippel Memorial-690.010.001 | 150.00    |
| 690 | CAC Agency Svc.-690.026.001       | 13,296.20 |

064543 4. September 26, 2005 minutes approved.

064544-064547 5. Personnel board orders approved.

064548 6. Having received confirmation from the Auditor, Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to allow the Chairman to sign a letter appointing Thomas D. Hansen of Farmington to an unexpired 3-year term on the Salary Commission as presented. Mr. Hansen will be representing Commissioner District I, replacing Barbara Pfaff and his term will expire December 31, 2007.

064549 7. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to allow the Chairman to sign a letter appointing Mitch Chandler to a position on the Blue Ribbon Advisory Task Committee as presented.

8. Kris Bunch presented 3 asset acquisition requests.

064550 a) The Treasurer is requesting replacement of a 1993 LaserJet printer that prints 8 pages/minute for a new, faster model. If approved, the old printer would be transferred to Information Services and used for parts. Information Services is recommending the purchase of an HP 4350 for \$1,940.00 plus tax. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize the purchase a new printer for the Treasurer's office.

064551 b) The Auditor has requested a new PC for one of her staff members. The staff members old PC would then be transferred to the new Licensing employee. Information Services does not have anything available other than a very old and inefficient system. Therefore, he recommended the purchase of a new PC for \$1,240.08 including tax. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion to authorize said purchase.

Chairman Partch pointed out the commissioners created a 60% Licensing position in the Auditor's office with the Auditor's assurance there would be no further Licensing closures. Commissioner Finch reported the department has been closed once since the position was authorized. Motion **carried**.

064552 c) The Assessor currently has a newer printer but the part that allows them to connect to the network failed. The Assessor has requested the printer be replaced. Information Services recommends not replacing the printer, but rather repairing it for approximately \$300. Chairman Partch said he spoke with the Assessor who is okay with this. Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to accept Information Services recommendation.

**BOCC MINUTES-10/03/05**

**064553** 9. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the 2006 Capital Improvement Program letter for distribution.

**064554** 10. Certification of the passage of Proposition No. 1 was received from the County Auditor.

**064555** 11. Pursuant to County Code regarding delegation of purchase orders, claims and payroll responsibilities, an authorization form was received from Parks and Developmental Services department(s), signed by the Board and forwarded to the Auditor's office.

**064556** 12. A tracking report showing the Growth Management Act county forecasts for 2001-2005 compared to the annual county population estimates over the same period was received from the Office of Financial Management.

13. Executed copies of the following documents received:

**064557** Military Department E911 Wireless Operations contract #E05-031(C),

**064558** Military Department E911 Wireline Operations contract #E05-055(D).

**D064558A** 14. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

**10:30 a.m. - County Property Hearing.**

Present: Dane Dunford, Mark Storey, Phil Meyer and Tammy Lewis.

**064558B** 1. The Chairman convened the hearing to consider declaring certain county property surplus.

Dane Dunford distributed the annual list of equipment the department would like declared surplus. There is not enough dollar value to warrant holding an auction in Colfax. As has been past practice, an auction would be held through Booker Auction on November 5<sup>th</sup> at their auction site on SR 395 in Eltopia, WA.

Since no comments were received against the proposal from those in attendance, the hearing was adjourned.

**064559** Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** that the resolution for resale of county surplus property be signed as presented.

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**IN THE MATTER OF RESALE OF** ) **RESOLUTION NO. 064559**  
**OF COUNTY SURPLUS PROPERTY** )

**BOCC MINUTES-10/03/05**

WHEREAS, the Whitman County Commissioners have advertised and held a public hearing on October 3, 2005, to hear arguments for or against the declaration of the items listed below; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, after due deliberation, have declared the attached list of items as surplus to the County's needs.

ER&R Vehicles and Equipment: 1988 Dodge 2x4; 1973 International 2050 (hot box); 1992 Chevy 2x4; 1991 Dodge 2x4 ER&R Misc. Items: Wisconsin 4 cylinder w/hand clutch; Hol-Gar Generator 12,500 watt; Fleck & Co. 3 phase machinist lathe; Bear automotive tire balancer; Miller AC/DC welder; 2 Slip tanks, 40 gal, 80 gal; 1 ¼ ton under hoist transmission jack; 4 Mico fuel tank pumps; Industrial electric fan oil cooler; 2 large bridge jacks and pumps; 5 Various sized industrial hydraulic cylinders; 11'x3' hydraulic reversing snowplow; Gull wing pickup tool box.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that the Whitman County Treasurer advertise and sell, according to law, the attached described surplus items, by public auction on November 5, 2005. The sale will be held at the Booker Auction site at the junction of US Highway 395 and Eltopia Road West. Booker Auction will act as the Treasurer's agent.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2005.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Partch, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
G.R. Finch, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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

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

**064560** 2. Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to publish the notice of sale to auction surplus items on November 5, 2005 at Eltopia, WA.

**064561** 3. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** that the guardrail bid for Sand Road be awarded to Frank Gurney, Inc. for a total bid amount of \$99,502.00.

**064562** 4. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** that the contracts between Whitman County and Frank Gurney, Inc. for guardrail on the Imbler Bridge be signed as presented.

**Planning Division:**

**064563** 5. Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to set the decision on amending the Whitman County Zoning Map for the proposed Darin McKee rezone (McKee Short Plat #2) changing 32.9 acres of land from the Agricultural District to Cluster Residential District to be held in this room at 11:00 on October 10, 2005.

**064564-064565** 6. The commissioners signed a board order authorizing block ads in the Gazette and Daily News for the Pullman-Moscow Corridor District meeting.

**Engineering Division:**

**D064565A** 7. Mark Storey shared photographs of the Peterson Bridge and stated the contractor has been notified he is in physical completion of the project as of today.

**D064565B** 8. Chairman Partch talked about the joint meeting with the Spokane County Commissioners last week concerning adoption of the WRIA 56 Plan. The highlight of the meeting was the letter Mark Storey drafted for the Board that spoke to fact the Whitman County Commissioners agree with the Plan in principle, but still have concerns about funding and proceeding incrementally. The Spokane County Commissioners liked our letter so much they adopted it too. The letter could only be accepted as testimony, not as an addition to the Plan. He thanked Mr. Storey for his assistance with this issue.

**10:40 a.m.** - Cindi Lepper.

**Maintenance Division:**

**D064565C** 9. According to the Director, the Sign crew finished striping last week and the Maintenance crew is hauling rock, ditching and grading. Grading will continue whenever possible moisture-wise until winter.

**Solid Waste Division:**

**064566** 10. Cindi Lepper, Recycling Coordinator reported on activities she has participated in during the summer months:

**11. No Waste Picnic.**

The event was held at WSU to welcome new students. They served 5,408 students and faculty. In 2004, 32 pounds of garbage remained after the picnic as compared to 2005 where more people were served but they only had 19 pounds of garbage. Recycled plastic totaled 251 pounds, cardboard totaled 393 pounds and aluminum totaled 161 pounds. The total composted food waste including forks totaled 1,075 pounds resulting in a 99.9% recyclable picnic.

**12. Lentil Festival Friday Night Street Fair.**

Ms. Lepper set up 6 recycling stations for the Fair. All the containers were contaminated with chili cups and the loads were too dirty to separate. Therefore, she was unable to collect any recyclables. Next year all recycling stations will be manned. The Coordinator located compostable cups made from vegetable oil that she will approach the Chamber about using in the future. Provided the chili is removed, the cups can be composted at WSU. The WSU Recycling Coordinator has offered to help with the 2006 Lentil Festival Friday Night Street Fair. They will work together to see if they can improve on recycling during this event.

On Saturday, the Coordinator's table space was located next to the lentil recipe sampling. This location proved to be very successful since the line for sampling passed her table. She spoke with approximately 300 people about recycling, answered numerous questions and distributed much information.

Six collection stations for plastic and aluminum were set up, a cardboard station for vendors as well as a collection container in the beer garden. A total of 112 pounds of aluminum, 252 pounds of plastic and 61 pounds of cardboard was collected making the days' event a total success.

**13. Palouse Empire Fair.**

There were 19 entries in the Recycled Art Department. Ms. Lepper passed out 400 litter bags and 211 Clean Green recipe kits.

WSU Recycling sponsored the Recycled Yard Art contest. However, this event was developed too late to be included in the Fair booklet. The entries had to be made from weatherproof recycled materials for the yard/garden. Only 1 entry was received from Tammy Lewis, Gazette Reporter who won a birdbath made by Stoess Manufacturing from a farm disk. WSU has agreed to participate next year. The event will be included in the fair booklet so entries should increase in 2006.

A total of 6 recycling stations were set up on the fairgrounds and not one station was contaminated. Ms. Lepper said the only way to improve this is to have more bins available next year. A total of 273 pounds of plastic, 290 pounds of aluminum and 714 pounds of cardboard were recycled.

**11:00 a.m. - Tim Davis.**

**14.** On November 1st Ms. Lepper is conducting a small quantity generator workshop for businesses that generate small amounts of hazardous waste. This year she chose to offer the workshop just to area farmers. She is partnering with WSU Extension to invite the farmers to breakfast while offering pesticide applicator credits at the same time. WSU sent out 800 letters about the event.

**BOCC MINUTES-10/03/05**

**D064566A 15.** Commissioner Finch brought up e-waste recycling. Ms. Lepper said if her CPG grant is reinstated, she plans to have an electronic collection event. The Chairman encouraged Ms. Lepper to continue her work on e-waste recycling with Developmental Services.

**D064566B 16.** The Coordinator continues to assist Environmental Health on an electronic solid waste issue in Thornton.

**D064566C 17.** Chairman Partch said John Glass of WSU Recycling has invited the Board to view their new gas energy plant.

**D064566D 18.** According to Ms. Lepper, all schools except Lacrosse are participating in the tennis shoe recycling program beginning November 15, 2005, which is America Recycles Day.

**D064566E 19.** At this time, Ms. Lepper did not know if she would be continuing the recycling art calendars program through the schools.

**D064566F 20.** Tim Davis reported on the success of Fall Cleanup that brought in 299 vehicles with 141 tons of material, which is very comparable to last fall.

**D064566G 21.** The Wood Waste Pilot program that began in April resulted in 162 tons of wood waste. This amount equates to 80 trailer loads that would have been trucked to the Arlington, Oregon landfill. Weight-wise it may not seem like much, but bulk-wise it relieved much congestion and is a program they would like to continue. The yard waste and wood waste is mixed together achieving a nicer product before hauled to the mill in Lewiston. The participating contractors were very appreciative.

Mr. Dunford noted the department would bring a resolution to the Board to establish this as an on-going, year-round program. Considering all the programs offered to our citizens by the Solid Waste Division i.e. Spring Cleanup, Fall Cleanup, Tire Amnesty, oil, antifreeze, battery recycling, etc. our citizens are getting more value from the Solid Waste Division, most of which is free or at reduced rates as compared to other counties in the state. Ms. Lepper said she hears the same thing at the State Recycling Coordinator's meetings and how state of the art Whitman County is when it comes to Solid Waste and Recycling.

Chairman Partch said he would visit with the cities/towns about a collection point for wood waste in each city/town.

**11:25 a.m. - Recess.**

**1:00 p.m. - Denis Tray, County Prosecutor.**

Present: Joe Poire', Sharron Cunningham and Megan Doyle.

**BOCC MINUTES-10/03/05**

**064567** Denis Tracy explained the Port is applying for money from different sources including the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) and issuing bonds to construct a new building to the ISR expansion. In order to get CERB approval and satisfy their bond counsel, they are asking for a resolution from this Board identifying the dollar amounts involved in the commitment from the county. In so doing, he drafted a resolution that does provide qualifiers, 1) the Port provide quarterly updates and 2) the Port obtain a lease from ISR for a good chunk of the expanded facility for a term of at least 8 years before the county's .08 funds would be provided to the Port. As the Prosecutor understood, that has been the Port's intention. The exact terms of the loan is being drafted by the Treasurer's office. However, today's proposed resolution is specific enough for the Port's needs.

Commissioner Wigen inquired if the Port has secured an 8-year lease with ISR. Joe Poire' said they have leased 2/3 of the building to ISR immediately and in 2 years ISR will take on another 5,000 square feet for the remaining 6 years of the 8-year lease.

Chairman Partch confirmed with Sharron Cunningham it is a \$400,000 grant and \$200,000 loan due in 4 equal payments of \$50,000 plus state pool interest due by October 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. The Prosecutor thought this language would be in the form of a promissory note for the Board to sign.

Joe Poire' agreed to provide a copy of the lease between the Port/ISR to the Prosecutor and commented today's commission action does meet the Port's needs. Also, there has been much work performed by the county in various offices for the Port's general obligation bonds, which they are very appreciative. According to the verbal from the bonding company and CERB, they are trying to issue the bonds in 6-7 weeks.

Commissioner Finch commented how pleased he is because this is what .08 funds are all about and he was glad he could help this project move forward.

Commissioner Wigen said he previously voted against this because the county is spending 2 years of .08 funds in one shot. He expressed his views to Joe Poire' and the Port commissioners. He thought the county has done a good job using these funds to help the cities/towns. One of the things that bothered him is that this request did not go through the Blue Ribbon Advisory Task Committee (BRATC) and he felt this Board had to made a fast decision.

Commissioner Wigen said he also had an accountant review the financial information submitted by the Port. In 12 years the Port would have all the money back they are receiving from the county at the rate of \$199,000/year. It was his opinion other projects are being sacrificed in Whitman County for an already established business. He wondered if a private agricultural business in Whitman County wanting to expand would be offered a similar opportunity. He is in favor of bringing in new jobs, but if he had his

**BOCC MINUTES-10/03/05**

choice today, there are two other projects he would like to use this money for, remodeling the Courthouse or new grandstands at the Fairgrounds. Therefore, he could not support the proposal.

Commissioner Finch respected his opinion although he disagreed. He explained this project was fast-tracked to meet the CERB deadlines. He is very satisfied with the decision he is making and enthusiastically supports this project. Many .08 projects are wonderful projects but do not create jobs.

Chairman Partch strongly supported the project pointing out the county has set money aside for major projects of this kind, the same as Walla Walla County, for projects that create jobs. He felt the county has made an innovative approach with our ADO contract managed by Palouse Economic Development Council (PEDC) and partnering with our Extension office while still having the Port as a liaison.

It is also important to recognize that the City of Pullman is the economic driver for .08 funds. They had not requested any .08 funding until 2003 when they were awarded \$80,000 for the South Grand Avenue sewer project.

He thought there would still be enough .08 funds remaining to make the standard \$100,000 annual BRATC allocation. The county is not using public funds for private purposes; the Port and County are both public entities striving for economic development/creation of jobs.

Commissioner Wigen said using the Port's October balance sheet he came up with \$1.8 million in disposable income. Whitman County is screaming for money for our budget and our people. To him, it doesn't matter if this is general fund money, .08 money or bond money, it is all Whitman County taxpayers' money. However, he respected the others opinions.

Commissioner Finch **moved** and Commissioner Partch **seconded** the motion to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Finch/Partch voted aye; Commissioner Wigen vote nay. Motion **carried**.

**RESOLUTION NO. 064567**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the Port of Whitman County has asked this board for funds from the County's .08 economic development funds, in order to expand its facilities at the industrial park in Pullman, Whitman County, in order to keep and attract business to the county; and,

WHEREAS, the Port has represented to this board that such an expansion will create a substantial number of high-wage jobs to the county in the immediate future, due to an expansion of Isothermal Research System in Pullman; and,

**BOCC MINUTES-10/03/05**

WHEREAS, this board has previously voted to authorize a loan and grant of .08 funds to the Port of Whitman County in a total amount of \$600,000 (six hundred thousand dollars) in order to partially finance a building expansion project at the Port's facilities at the industrial park in Pullman, WA, with lease of the expanded facility to the Isothermal Research System; and,

WHEREAS, such a loan and grant would be conditioned upon the Port's first obtaining a lease for at least 18,000 square feet of the expanded facilities with Isothermal Research System for a minimum term of eight (8) years; and,

WHEREAS, such a loan and grant would be further conditioned upon the Port's agreement to provide a quarterly progress report to this board and the County's .08 Blue Ribbon Advisory Task Committee, regarding the progress of the project and through the first year of occupancy of the expanded facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Whitman County Commissioners that the County's .08 economic development funds shall be used to partially finance the project described above, with \$450,000.00 being a grant to the Port of Whitman County and an additional \$150,000.00 being a loan to the Port of Whitman County, under terms to be mutually agreed upon.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2005.

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

Joe Poire' indicated the Port was fortunate that Commissioner Partch was able to attend the CERB meeting with him. While there is a difference of opinion between the county commissioners, it is only fair to say the same difference of opinion occurred with the CERB Board. What kind of partnering is going to be done is being debated at the state level. The CERB staff reversed the Port's request for funding the Port's grant/loan application because CERB staff felt the Port is a taxing entity, has cash flow, therefore no one should be permitted to partner with them. The CERB Board later reversed that opinion.

In response to Commissioner Wigen's comments about the Port's finances, they will end this year with \$113,000 in reserves. Traditionally, the

**BOCC MINUTES-10/03/05**

Port has tried to retain one year's tax levy between \$800,000-\$1,000,000 in reserves. The information Commissioner Wigen had may have included capitalization for their buildings or contracts. The Port wants to continue in the future with their operation costs being covered by their revenues. They look to be and are an economic development organization that covers its expenses on the rate of return. They hope to keep the building leased, they hope to cover the debt and they hope to have a rate of return for the taxpayers on that money. Philosophically, that is the way the Port does business. The Port appreciates the county partnering with them to make the organization stronger.

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

Present: Sharron Cunningham, Joe Reynolds, Tim Myers, Fran Martin, Bob Reynolds, Kelli Campbell, Bev Welch, Kim Kopf, Denis Tracy, Dane Dunford, Bob Lothspeich, Marlynn Markley, Bob Ingalls and Jodie Hamilton.

**2:15 p.m. - Kris Bunch.**

**064568 15.** Passage of Proposition 1 was discussed along with the county's financial software system. No action taken.

**2:30 p.m. - Recess.**

**3:00 p.m. - Kelli Campbell, Human Resources.**

**D064568A 16.** Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to go into executive session with the above individual(s) until 3:30 p.m. for personnel matters.

**3:30 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Adjourn.**

**D064568B** Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **October 3, 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 **October 10, 2005**. The foregoing action made this **3rd** day of **October 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