

**Minutes for October 30, 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.

**066035 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **October 30, 2006** at **9:00 a.m.** G.R. Finch, Chairman, Greg Partch 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: Kelli Campbell (9:00 a.m.) and Sharron Cunningham (9:30 a.m.).

**066036 1.** Items discussed included the DNR proposal, Coroner's request, union negotiations, I-747, WSU breakfast meeting, employee Classification system, Information Services position, Weed Department vehicle, Oregon's request, job survey mid-point posting, job family adjustment and project engineer position. No action taken.

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

**D066036A 2. Motion** by Commissioner Wigen to approve the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried**.

**066037 3.** Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **196618-196724** for **\$466,061.41** approved.

<b>FUND</b>	<b>FUND NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
001	Current Expense	46,588.76
102	Building & Development	35.17
103	Countywide Planning	129.14
110	County Roads	1,147.66
111	CETC Building	133.35
112	Public Facilities Improvement	400,000.00
117	Boating Safety	330.71
118	Inmate Welfare	70.85
127	Drug Enforcement-Quad City	984.06
137	Web Site Development	50.53
400	Solid Waste	1,418.27
410	Solid Waste Reserve	804.00
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	2,228.54
510	Photocopier Revolving	77.89
513	Communications Revolving	675.33
690	Clearing Fund 690.005.000	11,387.15

**066038 4.** October 23, 2006 minutes approved.

066039-066043 5. Personnel board orders approved.

066044 6. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve pro-rating medical insurance for future part time, non-represented employees as of 01/01/07.

066045 7. Commissioner Partch **moved** and Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion that the Coroner's request for full time status is approved as of 01/01/07 and that the Salary Commission will need to set the salary. Commissioner Partch stated the Coroner presented a very compelling case to justify his request. This position has become a full time job. Based on the Coroner's proposal and justification from other counties, this decision is probably well overdue. Motion **carried**.

066046 8. A request to designate two Mental Health Professionals (DMHP) was received from Mike Berney of Palouse River Counseling Center. Commissioner Wigen **moved** and Commissioner Partch **seconded** the motion to designate Angela Zavala and Alisha Dearman as Mental Health Professionals for Whitman County and to sign the two resolutions. Motion **carried**.

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTING  
DESIGNATED MENTAL HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS UNDER RCW 71.05**

**RESOLUTION NO. 066047**

WHEREAS Whitman County has responsibility for implementation of RCW 71.05 (Mental Illness), which mandates that a coordinated system of evaluation and treatment services be provided to involuntary patients and persons voluntarily seeking treatment for mental disorder; and

WHEREAS the Director of Palouse River Counseling has petitioned this Board to appoint Angela Zavala as Designated Mental Health Professional, finding that said appointee meets the requirements as specified by law.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Whitman County Commissioners that Angela Zavala by appointed a Designated Mental Health Professional.

Done this 30th day of October 2006.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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G.R. Finch, Chairman

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Greg Partch, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Maribeth Becker, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

Les Wigen, Commissioner

BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTING  
DESIGNATED MENTAL HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS UNDER RCW 71.05

RESOLUTION NO. 066048

WHEREAS Whitman County has responsibility for implementation of RCW 71.05 (Mental Illness), which mandates that a coordinated system of evaluation and treatment services be provided to involuntary patients and persons voluntarily seeking treatment for mental disorder; and

WHEREAS the Director of Palouse River Counseling has petitioned this Board to appoint Alisha Dearman as Designated Mental Health Professional, finding that said appointee meets the requirements as specified by law.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Whitman County Commissioners that Angela Zavala by appointed a Designated Mental Health Professional.

Done this 30th day of October 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

**066049** 9. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to sign the 2007 capital improvement program letter to all departments.

**066050** 10. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to publish the notice for budget amendment #4.

**066051** 11. Information regarding the procedure to claim aggravated murder costs was received from the Washington State Office of Public Defense and forwarded to the Prosecutor.

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**066052 12.** A consumer complaint regarding state funded elections equipment was received via the Attorney General's office and forwarded to the Auditor.

**D066052A 13.** Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

**10:15 a.m. - Karl Cozad, Community Action Center (CAC).**

Present: Sharron Cunningham and Thinkh Nguyen.

**066053** Mr. Cozad said the purpose of today's meeting is inform the commissioners of CAC's plans. In 2005 the State Legislature passed the Homeless Act (ESSHB 2163). These dollars doubled the Auditor's recording fee of \$10.00 per action on top of the SHB 2060 money. The county has contracted with CAC to administer those funds and work on a homeless plan for Whitman County. The 2163 dollars are split 60/40; 60% is returned to the local entity and 40% is retained by the state. The state's 40% goes into a pool and is then granted out to projects throughout the state deemed worthy of meeting the goals and objectives of the 2163 legislative act.

The first round of grant applications is due November 8th. CAC is preparing the application that for the commissioners as the applicant and CAC as the agency administering those funds. The packet will be presented to the commissioners in the next few days for review and comments with hopeful approval and submittal to Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED). The project involves transitional housing in Pullman. The state is saying no more than 3 projects will be granted for the \$2.5 million available.

Mr. Cozad will meet with the commissioners again on November 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the application and answer any questions the Board might have.

**10:25 a.m. - Recess.**

**11:00 a.m. - Joe Reynolds, County Assessor.**

Present: Laurie Line and Thinkh Nguyen.

**066054** The Assessor explained in 1886 the property in question, located in Elberton, was deeded to the railroad by the Waites. In 1894 the Waites sold property to the county that is referred to as the "County Poor Farm" which was supposed to go to the railroad as well. When the Roaches bought the property from the railroad they were deeded what they thought was the depot property. After a survey, they learned that small piece of ground had been omitted. In order for Weerts to obtain clear title to the property, the Assessor suggested the county quit claim to Weerts' any interest it has in the railroad property containing the depot and a part that the Roach's originally purchased. Commissioner Partch **moved**,

**BOCC MINUTES-10/30/06**

Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve a quit claim deed transferring any interest the county may have in this property to Keith and Kim Weerts in order to clear the title.

**11:05 a.m. - Recess.**

**11:30 a.m. - District Court Judge Douglas B. Robinson.**

Present: Thinh Nguyen and Ryan Bentley.

**066055** Judge Robinson said Whitman County has received word that the state has allocated \$2,600 for this segment of State Public Defense funding. The District Court Administrator has prepared a resolution to establish a fund to account for this money.

RCW 10.101.050 and 060 requires use of these funds to improve the delivery of defense services. It was thought a committee should be created to determine how the money would be spent. The Superior and District Court judges would serve on the committee along with one commissioner and one public defender.

Public defenders are required to attend a 1-day seminar conducted by the Office of Public Defense. Any expenses incurred could be paid from this fund.

Public defenders as well as other attorneys have requested wireless internet services at the courthouse. Judge Robinson thought this type of expense would be an appropriate use of the money since it would help to improve the job of public defenders. Unlike many other counties, there is no need to bring on an additional public defender to reduce caseload.

Commissioner Partch said he wouldn't mind serving on the committee.

Chairman Finch thought the county's Information Services department could provide the security needed rather than using an outside source if wireless internet was made available to the public defenders. It would also be a benefit to anyone accessing wireless internet in the area.

Judge Robinson presented copies of the Court Administrator's report to the Office of Public Defense.

Chairman Finch read the proposed resolution that will be acted on by the Board on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**11:45 a.m. - Recess.**

**1:00 p.m. - Jeff Gilson, Volunteer Employees' Beneficiary Association (VEBA) Service Group, LLC.**

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Present: Kelli Campbell and Susan Nelson.

**066056** Jeff Gilson gave a presentation on how VEBA Service Group, LLC can provide VEBA services to public employers in the northwest. Employers contract with VEBA Service Group, LLC to address current/future health needs of their employees. VEBA is a trust used by public agencies to provide a tax-free medical savings plan to their employees. This benefit can only be adopted and only funded by public employers in the northwest for employees. There are approximately 190 participating public employers in the Northwest (Washington, Idaho, Oregon) and over 20,000 active VEBA participants.

Once VEBA is adopted and funded, the dollars going into a VEBA account are tax-free, the fund grows tax-free and claims for reimbursement are also tax-free. This operates under the IRS charter of a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA).

Some of the many common qualified expenses and premiums that can be paid from VEBA include but are not limited to: premiums, co-pays, coinsurance, deductibles, over-the-counter medicines, drugs and medical equipment.

There is no cost for the employer to establish such an account. Expenses to operate the trust are borne by the participants. Beginning January 2007, there will be seven (7) individual investments employees can elect from in any combination. In addition, there are four (4) pre-mixed portfolios referred to as "Life Style" funds an employee can elect as well. The employee can change their allocation as often as monthly.

According to Kelli Campbell, eligible Whitman County employees wishing to participate in VEBA must choose from 1 of 3 medical insurance plans. The difference between the cost of the insurance premium paid by the employer and the \$615 insurance cap can be deposited into a VEBA account or applied to dependent coverage.

Chairman Finch advised Mr. Gilson the commissioners would review the information and make a decision at a later date.

**1:30 p.m. - Recess.**

**BOCC MINUTES-10/30/06**

**D066056A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **November 2, 2006** at **9:00 a.m.** G.R. Finch, Chairman, Greg Partch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

**9:00 a.m. - Reconvene/DNR Representatives.**

Present: Judy Wilson, Bob Winslow, Steven Saunders and Milt Johnston.

**066057** The representatives joined the commissioners to discuss proposed land exchanges throughout the state in an effort to eliminate checkerboard Ownerships. Three such exchanges are located in Whitman County.

- 6 Miles west of Pullman-Union Flat area (80 acres),
- West of Colfax (320 acres), and
- Western Whitman County (1100 acres)

The exchanges will not preclude development, but will create a more manageable area rather than scattered development. The representatives hoped to complete the exchange process by November 2007.

**9:25 a.m. - Adjournment.**

**D066057A** Commissioner Partch **moved** to adjourn the **October 30** and **November 2, 2006** 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 **November 6, 2006**. The foregoing action made this **2nd** day of **November 2006**.

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