

Minutes for October 31, 2011

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072350 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Monday, October 31, 2011** at **9:00 a.m.** Chairman Greg Partch, Patrick J. O'Neill and Michael Largent, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

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

Present: Gary Petrovich, Kelli Campbell, Kelli Hadley (9:00 a.m.), Joe Smillie (9:10 a.m.) and Denis Tracy (9:15 a.m.).

072351 1. Items discussed included 2010 county audit, countywide cost allocation, bonding, budget workshops, 2012 county employee medical insurance, 2012 HRA VEBA, prescription take-backs, county liability insurance, Jennifer Boie's endorsement, windmill site tour and Martin Hall recent census. No action taken.

9:30 a.m. - Recess.

10:00 a.m. - Board Business Continued/Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Marlynn Markley, Bill Spence, Joe Smillie and Kelli Hadley.

D072351A 2. Motion by Commissioner Largent to accept the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner O'Neill and **carried**.

072352 3. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **258373-258404, 258978-259003** and **259015-259156** for **\$897,788.92** approved.

072353 4. October 17, 2011 minutes approved.

D072353A 5. Ms. Markley reported the amendment to the Public Defense contract would be ready later in the day because additional adjustments needed to be included in the document.

10:05 a.m. - Denis Tracy, Brett Myers, Susan Nelson and Kelli Campbell.

072354 6. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize the Chairman to sign the 3rd quarter Public Disclosure Commission lobbying report form.

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072355 7. Kelli Campbell recommended Cigna as the county's 2012 employee medical insurance carrier with 4 plans; Cigna OAPLus 320663, Cigna OA Plus 320664, Cigna HAS Plan P and Cigna HRA Plan P (requires 10% participation).

Commissioner O'Neill **moved** and Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion to accept Cigna as the 2012 employee medical insurance carrier with 4 plans; Cigna OAPLus 320663, Cigna OA Plus 320664, Cigna HAS Plan P and Cigna HRA Plan P (requires 10% participation) pending Teamsters union agreement.

Prosecutor Denis Tracy said he learned today Ms. Campbell was going to recommend the Cigna option to the Board. He has previously spoken to the Board about the affect this decision would have on employees with families. He was specifically speaking about the non-represented employees in his office with families, both currently employed and future employed. The critical issue is to be able to offer his employees and deputy prosecutors the best insurance the county can for the amount of money. You have a number of different groups you are establishing insurance plans for. He was only speaking about the non-representative administrative professional group. This group is made up of unrepresented employees with families currently insured via the composite rate under WCIF (Premera). They pay one rate to insure the entire family.

What is being suggested to the Board under Cigna for this particular group versus the current WCIF Premera \$750 per person deductible plan will cost a family an additional almost \$8,000 per year to insure their family. This is a devastating amount that doesn't have to be imposed. The Board could leave this group with WCIF or move this group to the Teamsters Insurance Plan (but can't be done today).

Mr. Tracy went on to say the Sheriff and he have spoken with Teamster representatives Bruchman and McGinnis about the non-represented administrative professional group being insured through Teamsters insurance. They are awaiting a response from Mr. McGinnis' superior, but that probably won't happen for 2 weeks or more. He understood the Human Resources Director was not actively pursuing Teamsters insurance, but he is because he considers it a critical benefit for his deputy prosecutors. The reason being, he wants to be able to retain and attract the highest quality people he can for the money he is able to pay them.

If the commissioners allow this particular group to stay with WCIF, families won't have to spend an extra \$8,000/year and with WCIF this group could be transferred Teamsters insurance.

It is not correct to say the Cigna's HSA plan is comparable to the WCIF (Premera 750 plan). The total out of pocket, should a family encounter a devastating loss requiring medical attention for all members of a family, then yes, the insurance is comparable. If it is not a catastrophic event for every family member, it is not nearly comparable. It imposes a huge

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amount of out-of-pocket costs for the family. There is a huge difference in the deductibles are structured and the amount of deductibles.

Mr. Tracy urged the Board not to move the non-represented administrative professionals to Cigna from WCIF for now and then move the group to Teamsters should that option become available.

Kelli Campbell stated she has had several conversations with the Prosecutor about this and their different interpretations of the plans. Her recommendation is based on looking at all county employees together rather than each individual group. Right now, they are only talking about the carrier and that does impact the plans available.

Cigna Plans:

OAPlus 320663 - Very similar to Group Health Plan A

OAPlus 320664 - \$750 deductible plan

HSA Plan P - High deductible plan

HRA Plan P - High deductible plan that requires 10% enrollment

The HSA Plan P is very comparable to the WCIF Premera plans; the deductible is higher than Premera plans and the out-of-pocket maximum is quite a bit lower than the Premera plans. The overall liability is lower than the Premera plans.

10:15 a.m. - Paul Spencer.

Commissioner Largent wanted to clarify the Prosecutor's request to exclude this group from the motion to accept Cigna, leaving them with WCIF and making a decision on Teamsters insurance for this group at a later time should that opportunity arise. Mr. Tracy indicated Commissioners Largent's understanding is correct.

Commissioner Largent asked Ms. Campbell if she was recommending against that course of action. Ms. Campbell said she was not recommending against that course of action, but her recommendation has been for all employees to go together for carrier and stability purposes.

If this group was removed, the concern is whether or not that action would impact the stability of the rate structure. Ms. Campbell said it would have some impact on the rate structure. She offered that this group could be excluded from today's motion and voted on later. If they are separated from the rest of the employees and put with a different carrier it will impact the quotes received and she could not anticipate what those quotes might be based on an underwriting process by Cigna.

Commissioner Largent said he has and continues to struggle with this. One of the problems has been trying to pick from the different quotes. In the interest of gaining more time, he would like to **amend his motion** to

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exclude the non-represented administrative professionals until they are able to collect additional information.

Commissioner O'Neill wondered how the amendment to the motion would affect the deadlines with Cigna and Ms. Campbell said the decision would need to be made in November.

For the record, Commissioner Largent pointed out he is a member of the non-represented administrative professionals group.

Commissioner Partch wondered if the Board could adopt Cigna for all employees now and if they later learn there is a potential that could better serve the non-represented administrative professionals group remove them at that time. Ms. Campbell replied yes, but it will still affect the quotes.

Commissioner Largent said if he understands the Prosecutor correctly, for this particular group, the current WCIF plan is a better option than the Cigna plan being proposed here. If they take that approach, they will remove the option of remaining with WCIF. It would then be the option of Cigna or WCIF and Ms. Campbell confirmed that is correct.

Brett Myers said about 3 months ago he spoke with Mike Otis of FRP who informed him there would be little to no affect if this group was removed. But for the employees in the group, if they were transferred to Cigna insurance, it would affect those 18 people by over \$100,000/year from their take home pay.

Commissioner Largent said using his amended motion would provide 3 options rather than 2: 1) move from WCIF to either Cigna or Teamsters. As the motion currently stands, they can only move from WCIF to Teamsters.

Ms. Campbell said if they were to go back to WCIF that has to be done in the next week or two because WCIF has very definite deadlines.

Commissioner O'Neill said it was his understanding the insurance companies are forcing their hands and they want to do away with composite rates. Teamsters have it, but you can't have both; tiered and composite rates.

Ms. Campbell said WCIF's intent is to phase out composite rates because most have tier structured rates. But that won't happen automatically in 2012. There are still some composite rates available for 2012.

Commissioner O'Neill **seconded the amended motion** to "exclude the non-represented administrative professionals until they are able to collect additional information." Motion **carried**.

Vote on motion as amended:

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"Accepting Cigna as the county's 2012 employee medical insurance carrier (with 4 plans; Cigna OAPLus 320663, Cigna OA Plus 320664, Cigna HAS Plan P and Cigna HRA Plan P (requiring 10% participation) pending Teamsters union agreement and excluding the non-represented administrative professionals group until they are able to collect additional information." Motion **carried**.

072356 8. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to reimburse Gary Hunt up to a maximum of \$500 for legal consultation services (Brian Werst) regarding the Deputy Sheriff's Association and Teamsters bargaining units.

072357 9. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the HRA VEBA for 2012.

072358 10. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the 2012 Whitman County holiday schedule.

072359 11. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve a grant application data form for an Emergency Management Department grant from the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$48,447.00.

072360 12. An executed copy of Washington State Military Department contract #E12-070 was received for the Emergency Management Department.

072361 13. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

10:30 a.m. - Recess.

10:45 a.m. - Mark Storey, Public Works Director.

Present: Shelly Bennett, Alan Thomson, Iris Mayes, Paul Spencer, Bill Spence, Aaron Couch, Joe Smillie, Kelli Hadley,

ACTION ITEMS

Planning Division:

072362 14. Shelly Bennett of Palouse Commercial Real Estate met with the Board to request the commissioners amend the zoning ordinance to change the currently exempted churches in the Pullman-Moscow Corridor Districts to a permitted conditional use.

Upon further discussion, Planner Alan Thomson said the commissioners have two options: 1) ask the Planning Commission to proceed with this request following the same process used for any other zone amendment or 2) ask the Planning Commission to fast track the issue and allow the county

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commissioners to handle this particular amendment themselves. However, the Planning Commission could say they prefer to handle the amendment.

Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion to ask the Planning Commission to take up the issue of church zoning in the Pullman-Moscow Corridor. Commissioner Largent preferred this be handled by the Planning Commission through the normal process as a courtesy for the Commission's valued work.

Commissioner Partch was in favor of option 2, requesting the Planning Commission fast track the issue back to the county commissioners.

Alan Thomson said when an issue was previously handled directly by the county commissioners it was because the Planning Commission was extremely busy and that happens to be the case now.

Motion failed.

Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** that the county commissioners move forward on this issue.

(It should be noted for the record Ray Lindquist and Chris Cordodor both of Pullman contacted the commissioners' office to voice their support for the amendment.)

11:00 a.m. - Gnaedinger Quarry Crushing Bids.

Present: Mark Storey, Julie Edgeman, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Cochran, Mark Cochran, Paul Spencer and bidders.

072363 15. The following bids were received for crushing at Gnaedinger Quarry.

BIDDER	AMOUNT
Shawnee Rock	\$223,400.00
Seubert Excavating	\$179,845.00
DeAtley Crushing	\$249,160.00

The commissioners will render an award today at 2 p.m.

One bid arrived late (2:21 p.m.) via FedEx from Wood's crushing & Hauling, Inc. and it was returned to the bidder unopened.

Present: Mark Storey, Paul Spencer, Joe Smillie, Kelli Hadley and Bill Spence.

Engineering Division:

072364 16. Commissioner O'Neill moved Commissioner Largent seconded the motion and it carried that the resolution of intent to change the name of Barnes Cutoff Road #3370 be signed as presented.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

In the Matter of the Intent)	RESOLUTION NO. <u>072364</u>
To Change the Name of County)	
Road No. 3370, the Barnes)	INTENT TO CHANGE ROAD NAME
Cut Off Road beginning in)	
Section 33, Township 19 North,)	AND DIRECTIVE TO COUNTY
Range 43 East W.M. in)	
Whitman County, Washington)	ENGINEER FOR REPORT

WHEREAS, a request to Change the Name of County Road No. 3370, the Barnes Cut Off Road has been received by the Whitman County Board of County Commissioners, it is hereby declared the intention of the Whitman County Board of County Commissioners to change the name of said Barnes Cut Off Road as follows:

County Road No. 3370, the Barnes Cut Off Road shall be changed to County Road No. 3370, Eugene Prince Road.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that before a final decision can be reached on said name change, the Whitman County Engineer shall investigate and prepare a report on the proposed name change.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be entered upon the minutes of this Board.

DONE at Colfax, Washington, this 31st day of October, 2011.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Greg Partch, Chairman

Patrick J. O'Neill, Commiss.

ATTEST:

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Michael Largent, Commissioner

072365 16. Commissioner O'Neill moved Commissioner Largent seconded the motion and it carried to publish the notice of hearing for the name change for Barnes Cutoff Road.

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D072365A 17. According to the Director, years ago, WRIA submitted a request for funding to the Department of Ecology to install monitoring wells to assist the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) and commissioners in a better understanding of the groundwater basis better. The Department of Ecology (DOE) found \$350,000 to help install monitoring wells in Whitman County. When this process began 2-3 years prior, was potentially putting some or all of these monitoring wells (4-5) within the county road right-of-ways where there would be guaranteed access for a long time. This process is being revived. When this subject was first broached, the commissioners were all in favor of doing this to pay for research for the groundwater basin. Mr. Storey has a draft agreement to allow monitoring wells in county road right-of-ways accessible by PBAC and/or DOE for the next 50-100 years.

At a meeting last week a few areas were identified where a monitoring well might be installed. Mr. Storey will keep the commissioners updated but it is something to think about. If the commissioners have any serious concerns or misgivings about the direction taken previously Mr. Storey asked them to notify him in the next two weeks as he will be actively working to identify locations. No right-of-ways will be identified that could represent any type of safety hazard for the traveling public. Mr. Storey indicated he was in favor of this, but it is a commissioner decision.

D072365B 18. Mr. Storey mentioned the Port's contractor who is installing fiber optics on county roads is beginning to haul gravel on these gravel roads in an effort to tie down the roads for winter.

Solid Waste Division:

072366 19. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** that the America Recycles Day proclamation be signed as presented.

072367 20. Notice was received for the November 24th (Thanksgiving) and December 26th (Christmas) holiday closures at the Transfer Station.

072368 21. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to sign an amendment to the public defense contract dated December 21, 2009.

11:30 a.m. - Monthly Financial Review.

Present: Bob Lothspeich, Bob Reynolds, Brett Myers, Chris Nelson, David Ledbetter, Denis Tracy, Doug Robinson, Esther Wilson, Eunice Coker, Fran Martin, Gary Petrovich, Janet Schmidt, Kelli Campbell, Mark Storey, Marlynn Markley, Pete Martin, Sonya Miller, Paul Spencer, Joe Smillie, Kelli Hadley, and Bill Spence.

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Excused: Tim Myers.

072369 22. The September 2011 month ending financial report provided by Mr. Petrovich.

September 2011 Current Expense Revenue - \$ 8,223,686
September 2010 Current Expense Revenue - \$12,671,487
September 2011 Current Expense 2011 Expenditures - \$ 8,775,170
September 2010 Current Expense 2010 Expenditures - \$11,943,503

The Commissioners' actual budget less General Government Operations expenditures was review.

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

1:10 p.m. - Board Business/Executive Session.

Present: Kelli Campbell.

072370 23. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **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.

1:50 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Recess.

2:05 p.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued.

Present: Mark Storey and Phil Meyer.

072371 24. Mr. Storey recommended the Gnaedinger Quarry bid be provisionally awarded to Seubert Excavators, Inc. pending receipt of a Labor & Industries certificate.

Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to provisionally award the bid for crushing at Gnaedinger Quarry to Seubert Excavators, Inc. for a total bid amount of \$179,845.00 pending receipt of a Labor & Industries certificate.

2:10 p.m. - Recess.

2:30 p.m. - BOCC Workshop.

Present: Bob Lothspeich, Bob Reynolds, Brett Myers, Chris Nelson, David Ledbetter, Denis Tracy, Esther Wilson, Eunice Coker, Fran Martin, Gary Petrovich, Janel Goebel, Janet Schmidt, Kelli Campbell, Kim Kopf, Mark

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Storey, Michele Beckmann, Sonya Miller, Tim Myers, Kelli Hadley, Bill Spence (2:30 p.m.) and Joe Smillie (2:45 p.m.).

072372 25. Items discussed included budget saving suggestions for 2012. No action taken.

2:55 p.m. - Recess.

3:10 p.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued.

Present: Fran Martin, Steve Krigbaum, Bob Lothspeich and Joe Smillie.

D072372A 26. Steve Krigbaum explained many, many years ago the Sheriff, Fire District 12, a farmer and an internet provider worked together and built a radio tower site on Balde Butte. Ownership was considered to lie with the Sheriff since he paid the electric bill every month and Whitman County is named as the owner according to the Assessor's records. In addition to an ailing tower, there is also a 10x10 block structure in poor condition. Whitman County no longer has a need for the building or tower. The agreement with the property owner says if the site is no longer needed by Whitman County, it must be restored.

Fire District 12 has agreed if the county wishes to abandon its ownership interest they would be willing to receive it through quit claim. Their intention is to negotiation with an internet provider and then quit claim it to them.

Mr. Krigbaum asked for authorization directing Emergency Communication via Gary Libey to prepare a quit claim deed granting whatever fraction of ownership the county has to Fire District 12 with the condition the county has no liability. Mr. Krigbaum perceived this as a win-win for all parties.

3:15 p.m. - Robin Cocking.

Treasurer Bob Lothspeich recommended verifying the ownership. He also noted that transferring county property to another governmental entity eliminates many steps in the process.

After further discussion, Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to direct Emergency Communications to proceed with examining the disposition of the Balde Butte tower site facility and transferring ownership to Fire District #12.

3:20 p.m. - Adjournment.

D072372B Commissioner O'Neill **moved** to adjourn the **October 31, 2011** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Largent and **carried**. The Board

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will meet in regular session, in their Chambers', in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington, on **November 7, 2011**. The foregoing action made this **31st** day of **October 2011**.

ss/ PATRICK J. O'NEILL, COMMISSIONER
ss/ MICHAEL LARGENT, COMMISSIONER

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners