

BOCC MINUTES-11/01/10

071269 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Monday, November 1, 2010 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: Bob Reynolds, Joe Smillie, Sarah Mason and Kelli Campbell (9:30 a.m.).

071270 1. Items discussed included CETC building, Jones Schoolhouse, Harrison Building change order #2, Empire Health Foundation, Fair Board fees, transfer of Jones Schoolhouse by Fair Foundation to county, Colfax Criminal Justice contract, Martin Hall, redistricting, Administrative Director, VEBA for waiving coverage and non-represented medical groups. No action taken.

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

Present: Bob Lothspeich, Esther Wilson and Joe Smillie.

D071270A 2. Motion by Commissioner O'Neill to accept the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Largent and **carried**.

071271 3. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **244902-244912, 244915-244941, 245158-245318** and **245384-245510** for **\$1,480,282.30** approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	5,268.53	92,576.82	49,305.63
102	Building & Development		22.97	1,709.20
103	Countywide Planning		290.00	1,838.60
104	Developmental Services	36,982.47	145.05	
110	County Roads	155.47	1,040,724.28	16,423.00
111	CETC Building		58.44	
117	Boating Safety	154.00		
118	Inmate Welfare		508.46	
121	County Bulk Purchasing		2,503.12	
123	Paths/Trails-BCPT 123.310.001		369.43	
126	Treasurer's O&M		506.66	
127	Drug Enforcement-Quad City		212.92	400.00
128	Crime Victims/Witness-Pros. 000			350.00
134	Elections-Special Project 001		20,943.44	
135	Prosecutor's Stop Grant			150.00
138	Federal Equitable Sharing		194.04	
144	Emerg. Communicat. 144.260.001	1,981.07	198,972.26	250.00
300	CIP Asset Acquisit. 300.010.001		842.34	
400	Solid Waste	4,934.37	2,638.23	800.00

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501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	14,228.69	44,829.62	4,697.40
513	Communications Revolving		181.61	
660	Whitcom-General 660.911.000	1,198.87	4,593.45	
660	Whitcom-Grant 660.911.001	2,339.61	382.17	
690	AFLAC Flex. Spend. 690.050.001		1,544.00	
001	Current Expense	3,675.00	163,951.85	
102	Building & Development		6.41	
103	Countywide Planning		697.44	
110	County Roads	1,689.80	30,607.92	
111	CETC Building		213.16	
118	Inmate Welfare		814.76	
123	Paths/Trails-BCPT 123.310.001		224.35	
126	Treasurer's O&M		1,519.98	
127	Drug Enforcement-Quad City		385.51	
132	Auditor's Document Preservation		16,512.16	
144	Emerg. Communicat. 144.260.001		57,939.28	
300	CIP Cap. Projects 300.010.005		5,517.94	
400	Solid Waste		128,867.58	
410	Solid Waste Reserve		1,323.36	
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	350.00	16,416.17	
510	Photocopier Revolving			
511	Unemployment Insurance		10,937.20	
660	Whitcom-General 660.911.000		94.88	
690	Ernie Dippel Mem. 690.300.001	51.74		

071272 4. October 18, 2010 minutes approved.

071273-071279 5. Personnel board orders approved.

071280 6. Commissioner O'Neill **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize the publishing of a notice of hearing for the 2010/2011 CDBG-PS grant.

071281 7. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to sign an interfund loan resolution from Solid Waste for the state reimbursed HAVA grant in the amount of \$360,000.

**RESOLUTION NO. 071281
BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Whitman County Commissioners met in regular session on the 1st day of November 2010; and,

WHEREAS, the Whitman County Auditor has received approval for the remodeling of a portion of the Harrison Building to become the Elections Department of Whitman County; and,

WHEREAS, Construction has begun on this remodeling project; and,

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WHEREAS, the Whitman County Auditor has received approval from the State of Washington for a HAVA Grant in the amount of \$360,000; and,

WHEREAS, the HAVA Grant requires that funds be spent first, and then be reimbursed to Whitman County upon the filing of a claim to the State of Washington; and,

WHEREAS, the Whitman County Auditor has requested an interim interfund loan of \$360,000 for the period of the remodeling; and,

WHEREAS, the Whitman County Solid Waste Fund is in a position to provide the funds requested; and,

WHEREAS, this request complies with R.C.W.'s regarding loan agreements and debt limitations; and,

WHEREAS, the interfund loan will be repaid as funds are reimbursed from the State of Washington through the HAVA Grant at an interest rate of 2% per annum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that an interfund loan of \$360,000.00 is loaned to The Whitman County Auditor from the Whitman County Solid Waste Fund, to be disbursed and repaid as stated.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of November, 2010.

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

071282 **8.** Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the Washington State Military Department FEMA contract #E11-091 in the amount of \$65,674 (10/31/12).

9. The Commissioners signed the following Emergency Management grant application data forms:

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071283 WA State Military Department emergency management performance grant in the amount of \$12,382 for the period 10/01/09-03/31/11.

071284 WA State Military Department hazardous mitigation grant in the amount of \$118,029 for the period 08/24/10-08/24/12.

071285 WA State Military Department homeland security grant in the amount of \$65,674 for the period 08/01/10-10/31/12.

071286 10. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize the Chair to sign the Washington State Liquor Control Board special occasion liquor license request for Ducks Unlimited and not voicing any objections.

071287 11. As previously authorized, the commissioners signed off on the asset acquisition request to upgrade 5 FTR recording systems for \$7,200.

071288 12. The commissioners approved change order #2 for the Harrison Building remodeling project upon motion by Commissioner Largent seconded by Commissioner Partch.

071289 13. The revised Palouse Empire Fair facilities rental and program fees as of 10/26/10 were received.

071290 14. The commissioners accepted donation of the Jones Schoolhouse from the Palouse Empire Fair Foundation via a memorandum of understanding upon motion by Commissioner Largent seconded by Commissioner Partch.

071291 15. An executed copy of the WA State Military Department Emergency Management agreement #E11-049 was received (03/31/11).

071292 16. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

10:45 a.m. - Recess.

11:00 a.m. - Mark Storey, Public Works Director.

Present: Joe Smillie.

Commissioner O'Neill excused himself from the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

D071292A 1. Although vacation of Crow Road is listed on today's agenda, the Director postponed any action until the full Board was available and the members present concurred.

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071293 2. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Partch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** that the resolution of notice of intent to change the name of Mail Route Road name be signed as presented.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

In the Matter of the Intent to)	
Change the Name of County Road)	RESOLUTION NO. <u>071293</u>
No. 4160, the Mail Route Road)	
Beginning in Section 13, Town-)	INTENT TO CHANGE ROAD NAME
ship 18 North, Range 39 W.M.)	AND DIRECTIVE TO COUNTY
in Whitman County, Washington)	ENGINEER FOR REPORT

WHEREAS, a request to Change the Name of County Road No. 4160, the Mail Route 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 Mail Route Road as follows:

County Road No. 4160, the Mail Route Road shall be changed to County Road No. 4160, Cayuse Lake 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 1st day of November, 2010.

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

071294 3. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Partch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to publish the notice of hearing to change the name of Mail Route Road.

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ATTEST:

Patrick J. O'Neill, Commiss.

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Michael Largent, Commissioner

Solid Waste Division:

071296 5. According to Mr. Storey, Fall Cleanup brought in 94.88 tons as compared to 2009 that brought in 81.39 tons.

071297 6. A list of 2010/2011 holiday Landfill closure dates received.

Maintenance Division:

071298 7. Pictures of the recently resided St. John shop were shared by the Director.

D071298 8. Mr. Storey pointed out the maintenance crews are making equipment modifications for snow.

Engineering Division:

D071298A 9. Crushing at the Pullman South site should be done by tomorrow; the Aune Bridge project is progressing nicely and the Oakesdale and Hatley Bridges are being considered by the Bridge Advisory Committee in Olympia this week.

11:30 a.m. - Board Business Continued.

Present: Janet Schmidt and Steve VanVleet with the Extension Office, Joe Smillie and Commissioner O'Neill by phone.

D071298A 17. Steve Van Vleet provided a brief update on his 2010 and future projects: diagnostic clinic, wheat growers meetings, wheat stem rust study, Winona bio-control study, CRP grazing, published calendar, Camp Grizzly, carcass contest and speaking about direct seeding in the Ukraine.

071299 18. Janet Schmidt pointed out in June Mr. Van Vleet gave his tenure presentation. Project Ms. Schmidt worked on in 2010 include the Master Gardeners program, carcass contest, Leaders training, partnership for regional science and shooting sports, 4-H and 4-H Achievement programs and Fishing Kids. Palouse Country radio made a \$12,000 grant available for 4-H public service announcements. Ms. Schmidt recently received her 25 year 4-H service award.

11:55 a.m. - Recess.

1:30 p.m. - Board Business Continued.

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Present: Mike Berney, Greater Columbia Behavioral Health (GCBH), Joe Smillie and Commissioner O'Neill by phone.

071300 19. Report from the GCBH Board meeting held October 7, 2010 and briefing on the GCBH Board meeting to be held November 4, 2010.

D071300A 20. Authorize contract signatures: Medicaid and State-Only contract amendments between the State of Washington and GCBH are once again on the agenda as a tentative action item. The amendments have not been received as yet. Mr. Berney recommended Whitman County vote in favor to authorize the. **Motion** by Commissioner Largent **seconded** by Commissioner O'Neill and **carried** to authorize the GCBH Board Chair to sign the contract amendments upon arrival.

D071300B 21. Adjustment to the GCBH Funding Formula: Garfield County relinquished some of their funding because their unit rate for services was so high. Columbia County petitioned the Funding Committee to have their funding increased because they were running in the red and their unit rate for service hours was low relative to the other small counties. Columbia County's initial request for an increase was greater than the give back from Garfield County. The Funding Committee discussed the request and was not supportive at this time of transferring resources that required that additional funding be taken from other counties without more study regarding what minimum services in each area should look like. The Committee recommended unanimously that the Board of Directors authorize the funding authority returned from Garfield County be allocated to Columbia County. Mr. Berney recommended Whitman County vote in favor of accepting the Funding Committee's recommendation.

D071300C 22. Report/update from the GCBH State-Only Funding Workgroup: The upcoming budget reduction for the remainder of this biennium will impact mental health services supported by State-Only funding (not Medicaid). There is a requirement that services be similar across a Regional Support Network (RSN). Even though the contract amendments containing these budget reductions have not yet been received the Funding Committee thought it prudent to make some educated guesses and reduce funding beginning November 1st. Since services supported by State-Only funds may be impacted significantly a special workgroup was appointed by the Board to develop recommendations so that these services will be similar across the RSN. The workgroup has met once and will provide an update. Mr. Berney was hopeful that GCBH will allow as much flexibility as the State/Federal rules will accommodate.

D071300D 23. Update on bringing the service authorization function in-house at GCBH: A requirement of the RSN is that they have an independent way of authorizing services. When the State required this to be independent of service provision they did it with such a short lead time

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that GCBH felt the only way to be sure to meet the requirement was to contract out that function. The contract was awarded to Behavioral Health-Options (BHO). Over the years there have been a number of communication problems between GCBH and BHO. Communications have improved somewhat over the years but are still not where they need to be. GCBH currently pays BHO approximately \$50,000 per month and has a month to month contract. Recently GCBH Regional Office staff visited North Central RSN who has been doing their own service authorization for a little more than a year. GCBH staff believes they can bring the service authorization process in-house and by doing so significantly improve communications and for less money. GCBH staff presented a draft plan for bringing the authorization process in-house. The proposal is significantly less expensive than the current process and it is believed the in-house service will be more responsive. The Funding Committee recommends approval to the Board of Directors of the draft plan. The GCBH Board voted unanimously to implement the plan for bringing the authorization process "in-house".

D071300E 24. Direct contracting for CD services: The commissioners' letter was received by the administrator and is in the contracting section.

D071300F 25. As a follow up to the debarment information previously noted, the state is requiring information from the county commissioners. (That information was later sent to Mr. Berney 11/02/10.)

1:50 p.m. - Recess.

2:00 p.m. - Board Business Continued.

Present: Brett Myers and Michelle Beckmann (2:00 p.m.).

D071300G 26. Civil Service Commission position reclassification. No action taken.

2:15 p.m. - Recess.

3:00 p.m. - Board Business Continued/Workshop (at Port of Whitman).

Present: John Love, Dan Boone, Don Cox, Debbie Snell and Dick Watters.

071301 27. Items discussed included SEWEDA and shoreline update, December 1st legislative meeting, Digilent Company, CGI Showcasing Whitman County, WFD Incubator training and Wal-Mart. No action taken.

4:30 p.m. - Recess.

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D071301A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **Monday, November 8, 2010 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. - Meeting Reconvened/Board Business Continued.

Present: Janet Schmidt, Gary Petrovich, Mark Storey, Alan Thomson, Iris Mayes, Joe Smillie (9:00 a.m.) and Bob Reynolds (10:15 a.m.).

071302 28. Items discussed included proposed planning code revisions, CETC insurance claim, DIVCO mechanical contract, ESCO developed energy upgrade plan, Harrison Building change orders, WCIF/WCIP update, VEBA, 2011 preliminary budget and 2011 Colfax criminal justice contract. No action taken.

10:45 a.m. - Recess.

071303-071304 29. Change order #3 and #4 for the Harrison Building was received from Mr. Reynolds for a window and door. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize change orders #3 and #4 for the Harrison Building as presented.

11:05 a.m. - Recess.

1:00 p.m. - Board Business Continued/Executive Session.

Present: Gary and Valerie Hunt and Kelli Campbell.

071305 30. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to go into executive session with the above individuals until 2:45 p.m. in accordance with RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) for matters related to negotiations.

2:45 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Board Business Continued.

071306 31. Commissioner Largent restated a 10/18/10 motion allowing employees to waive county medical coverage for coverage under an alternate qualifying plan and that the county's portion of the medical insurance premium be placed in a VEBA.

Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner O'Neill **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to remove the above item from the table.

Commissioner Largent **moved** amending the 10/18/10 motion to include a sunset provision expiring 12/30/11; secondly, the effect of this motion is

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pending union agreement with the Courthouse, Road and Solid Waste bargaining units; and would also apply to non-represented employees. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner O'Neill.

Commissioner O'Neill indicated he had read much information and did some real soul searching because he was very torn on this issue. He wants to do what is best for the county long-term. He felt he is at a disadvantage in determining if this will be good or detrimental to the county long-term due to the pending health insurance debacle the county is facing and not knowing what the future holds for employee health insurance. His overall thought is that there are too many negatives and too many unanswered questions.

If employees waive coverage this year they may have to come back to the plan next year. Not knowing how many people would waive coverage or the cost 1-2-3 years from; the greater number of employees on a health insurance plan, the cheaper the rates. He was real hesitant to parse this out and would probably vote against it.

Commissioner Largent said he had some of the same concerns and is suggesting a sunset provision to alleviate the long-term concerns. This is a one-year opportunity during some drastic increases in insurance rates to allow at least some employees to better spend their benefit dollars, fully recognizing they may not be able to continue this option in 2012 depending upon the type of coverage available. Fortunately, in 2011 they have a plan in spite of the closing of the medical portion of the WCIP pool that guarantees a rate for currently employees through 2011 whether or not using VEBA at the current quote and renewable for an additional 5.7%. Regardless of what the Board does with the VEBA it will not change the 2011 insurance rates. However, he understood the concerns about obtaining quotes in the future and the fact if some employees waive coverage it could likely change the makeup of the insurance pool. However, the county can't commit to a long-term VEBA contribution such as this until they have a more sounding view of what the county's insurance buying will be in the future. For 2011, the period for which this VEBA covers is sound. In the meantime, they will have done one small thing to help some employees as they have done with the employee/spouse issue in order to more efficiently spend benefit dollars.

Commissioner Largent said he too has struggled with this because it is not an easy question but he has been concerned about what is happening with insurance rates across the nation and for our employees. He would like to give some opportunity even it is a small window, to buy some time.

Commissioner O'Neill fully agreed with Commissioner Largent but the fact is if we lose "x" number of employees from the pool in 2011 then in 2012, because of our experience rating or the number of claims in 2011 it could actually increase our rates for 2012 and beyond. If the younger,

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healthier employees choose to waive coverage for 2011 it could cause higher rates for the county insured employees in 2012 due to the age gap.

Commissioner Largent thought that was an unlikely scenario. Assuming the county goes with Premera, a very likely scenario, contractually, Premera is not going to provide the county an experience rating. The county would move into the 2012 rating system based upon population like all other groups. Whether or not the county has an experience rating for the few or many that may opt out and spend their benefit dollars differently is not going to help the county with an experience rating. He has been told that most insurance companies won't provide an insurance rating. The fact that WCIP would do so is somewhat of an aberration. Other carriers feel the information is proprietary to their company and is a benefit to any group trying to quote competitively. Therefore, Whitman County won't have a 2011 experience rating even for employees covered under WCIF. Under contract with WCIF, the county can obtain an experience rating for 2010 only. Commissioner Largent said he had no compelling reason to vote against this. The risks may be unknown but are short-term.

Commissioner O'Neill thought one risk is continuation of this option after one year creating additional liability. Commissioner Largent responded there would be no additional liability because extending this option after the sunset clause is entirely up to this Board. He would not support extending the VEBA beyond the sunset clause if it damaged the county's capacity to insure most efficiently under the group setting. The fact that some employees may want the option continued is not a liability. It is just something the county would have to contend with. But at least for 2011 the Board would have done something positive for the employees who could benefit from this. They are not required to extend the provision to the contrary interest of the county as a whole.

Commissioner Partch said there are enough unanswered questions that he too is concerned about moving this forward. Obviously the Board wants to do whatever is possible during these uncertain health insurance and revenue times. He realized once a condition is created, even with a sunset clause it is difficult to reverse. In response to a state-wide county poll on the issue, most that responded do not allow this. Yes the county wants to help the employees, but he thought this could have a significant impact on the county in the future.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Largent voted **aye** and Commissioners O'Neill and Partch voted **nay**.

3:10 p.m. - Adjournment.

D071305A Commissioner O'Neill **moved** to adjourn the **November 1 and 8, 2010** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Largent and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in their Chambers', in the Whitman County

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Courthouse, Colfax, Washington, on **November 15, 2010**. The foregoing action made this **8th** day of **November 2010**.

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

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners