

Minutes for November 12th, 2002

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060364 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **November 12, 2002** at **10:00 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch, and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

10:00 a.m. - Board Business.

D060364A 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Dean Ferguson.

D060364B 2. Motion by Commissioner Finch to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

060365 3. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **141901-141952, 141973-142008,** and **142023-142140** for **\$764,447.82** approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	\$41,695.69
101	Self Insurance	1,912.65
112	Public Facilities Improvement	495.85
118	Inmate Welfare	4,629.44
137	Web Site Development	995.00
138	Federal Equitable Sharing	90.16
139	"911" Emergency Service	51,805.78
142	Whitcom	24,859.22
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	100.00
510	Photocopier Revolving	378.58
652	Fire Districts	32.00
690	Clearing & Suspense	252,943.39
ET	Electronic Transfer	395,510.06

060366 4. November 4, 2002 minutes approved.

060367-060371 5. Personnel board orders approved.

060372 6. Motion by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to publish notice of the CDBG-PS grant hearing scheduled for November 25th.

060373 7. A letter was received from the Sheriff notifying the commissioners that Undersheriff Donald R. Anderson has applied to return to his classified civil service position of Sergeant as of January 1, 2003.

060374 8. Notice of a proposed annexation of 43.1 acres of land to Pullman was reviewed. Neither the Planning Department nor the commissioners had any objections.

060375 9. Notice of the 2003 dues for the National Association of Counties received in the amount of \$763.00 and tabled to April 2003.

060376 10. Notice of the 2003 dues for Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington was received in the amount of \$4,684 and tabled to April 2003.

060377 11. Certification of tax levies for calendar year 2003 collections for school districts of the second class was received from ESD 101.

060378 12. An executed copy of the WSDOT Local Agency agreement supplement #1 for the Johnson Road Safety project was received.

10:30 a.m. - Fran Martin, Public Health.

Present: Dean Ferguson and Don Schmick (10:35 a.m. via telephone).

D060378A Ms. Martin asked the Board if they would consider the gifting of the Community Education Training Center (CETC) to the county if the Whitman County Business & Development Association (WCB&DA) were to enter into an agreement at no cost to the county that says for 3 years the WCB&DA and the CETC Advisory Board would pay all the maintenance and repairs and then revisit the issue after that time.

The owner of the building, the Port of Whitman County is being advised by their attorney to do something about the building because it is against the mission of the Port.

Don Schmick and Ms. Martin who have taken the lead on this have been talking with an attorney themselves to obtain legal direction. The issue will be discussed today at the WCB&DA meeting. The county and a school district are the only entities that could consider this type of request.

The Chairman indicated the Board would add this issue to their workshop agenda, would contact the State Examiner, and visit with the Port about this issue on Friday.

Don Schmick telephoned the commissioners to thank them for their consideration.

10:40 a.m. - Recess.

11:00 a.m. - Dane Dunford, Public Works Director.

Present: Jean Wardwell, Barbara O'Donnell, Ron Shirley, Mark Storey, Dean Ferguson, Julie Fox, Mark Bordsen, Dale Schoepflin.

Action Items:

060379 1. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** that the local agency change order with (Motley-Motley, Inc.) for Green Hollow Road be signed as presented.

060380 2. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** that the agreement between the City of Spokane and Whitman County to collect, handle, and dispose of solid waste and household hazardous waste be signed as presented.

060381 3. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** that the intergovernmental cooperation agreement between Whitman County and Washington State University be signed as presented.

Planning Division:

060382 4. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to accept the Planning Commission's recommendations and grant the expansion of the zoning code for Mr. Dale Schoepflin.

ORDINANCE NO. 060382

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WHITMAN COUNTY ZONING MAP TO CHANGE THE ZONING FROM AGRICULTURAL TO AIRPORT COMMERCIAL.

BE IT ORDAINED and enacted by the Board of County Commissioners of Whitman County, State of Washington, it having been determined by the Board after hearing the Recommendations and Findings of Fact of the Whitman County Planning Commission should be accepted and this action is consistent with the Whitman County Comprehensive Plan.

Expand the existing Airport Commercial District, with the additional area to be rezoned from the Agricultural District, as may be allowed by the Whitman County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 19.04. The site of this proposed expanded zone is along Ringo Road approximately 2 miles south of Palouse. The additional area is about 26.06 acres in size, which would expand the zone from about 14 acres to a total of 40.06. The existing zone is within Section 12, Township 16, Range 45. A part of the additional area, a second airstrip lying NE to SW is within Section 12. The remainder of the additional area is in Section 7, Township 16, Range 46. These two sections abut each other and Ringo Road splits the two sections.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Whitman County Commissioners of Whitman County, Washington, on the 12th day of November 2002.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Greg Partch, Chairman

ATTEST:

G. R. Finch, Commissioner

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Les Wigen, Commissioner

Engineering Division:

060383 5. The Engineer reviewed the O'Donnell Road speed zone study report and made the following recommendation.

O'Donnell Road #5570 is a relatively well-maintained gravel road with good geometry, sight distance, lane widths, shoulders, and few reported accidents. The average daily traffic and speed characteristics of the vehicles using the road were measured. The annually adjusted daily traffic ranged from 67 to 94 at our two recording stations. The majority of the traffic consists of passenger cars. By definition (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the road is only subject to the design guidelines for "very low-volume local roads", with an ADT \leq 400. The road geometry appears to generally meet the AASHTO guidelines for a very low-volume local road.

The legal speed on the O'Donnell Road is 50 MPH. According to their measurements very few vehicles are exceeding the speed limit. The 8th percentile speed ranges from 44.27 to 46.96 MPH. This seems to be within the capacity of the road construction and quality of maintenance. Additionally, the majority of the traffic during the study was traveling between 35 and 45 MPH. At this time, the Engineer was of the opinion that there is not a reasonable basis to reduce or alter the legal speed on this road and he recommended that the regulatory speed for O'Donnell Road remain at 50 MPH, consistent with other gravel roads in the Whitman County road system.

Chairman Partch commented he had received a letter signed by 3 individuals saying there is no reason for a speed limit change.

Barbara O'Donnell having only just received the report stated she did not agree the road is well maintained. The people using this as a commuter road are taking their paychecks from Washington and spending them in Idaho where they live. The county is maintaining this road for Idaho residents who do not pay taxes in Washington and this is not a good use of county money. The maintenance that needs to be done is not getting done, i.e. ditch cleaning.

Ms. O'Donnell didn't believe a one-week study over the past summer and fall was adequate based on the amount of bumper-to-bumper traffic all day long on certain days. Idaho and Washington residents are using this road as a shortcut getting around Washington SR 270 and Idaho Highway 195, along with highway construction companies moving heavy equipment at 3 a.m. and farmers moving machinery.

Dane Dunford believed his staff has done a representative sample during which Washington State University and the University of Idaho were both in session. With respect to contractor or agricultural equipment moving through a road is quite possibly illegal without pilot cars and is simply an

issue the county deals with on a daily basis. Contractor equipment is moved all the time on all county roads, sometimes without first obtaining the necessary permit. When the county knows it is happening, they can respond by sending out the road deputy to make sure the contractor is providing adequate traffic control and pilot cars. This is just something the general public must contend with.

However, Mr. Dunford felt through 2 different methods the county has provided a representative sample of the kinds of traffic on the O'Donnell Road. He advised the commissioners they could either make a decision today or further review the information and make a decision at a later date.

Ms. O'Donnell also told the commissioner about an individual who recently rezoned his property in the Carson Addition to commercial and she believed he is the same individual that drove his road grader to work every morning during the summer. The Chairman advised Ms. O'Donnell that there is no law that prevents her neighbor from doing so.

She also felt the study should have included a game traffic weekend. It seemed to her that the main issue should be safety and the cost of maintenance. Commissioner Finch said the county has no control over game traffic, which only takes place about 6 times/year.

Commissioner Wigen said the same thing happens in the Albion area where a new all-weather road was built. The people still use a nearby gravel road as a shortcut. The county cannot stop people from using these public roads.

Chairman Partch said when Ms. O'Donnell presented her petition the Board asked their staff to conduct a study on the road. He thought staff had gone above and beyond what was expected and is very much appreciated. He added living in an agricultural county we hope people realize gravel roads are not the same as paved roads. With regards to road maintenance and ditching, both of which are on scheduled programs, and those schedules are based on how much money is available. Chairman Partch felt it was a very fair study and he was ready to move forward with a decision.

Commissioner Finch said the roads belong to the public and traffic cannot be restricted. There are times when things take place that he doesn't like, but that's part of living in the country. Even if a reduced speed limit of 35 MPH were imposed on this road, Ms. O'Donnell would expect more law enforcement. However, with the county's budget shortfall, the resources are not available to do that. Ms. O'Donnell responded that this particular area has never had any law enforcement even when they call.

Chairman Partch pointed out our law enforcement is stretched very thin. With the 2000 miles of county roads patrolled, the deputies do a great job. He thought the bulk of the farmers are very conscientious and work hard to keep our roads safe.

There being no further discussion, **motion** was by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to accept the study, conclusions, and recommendations that the speed limit on O'Donnell remains at 50 MPH.

D060383A 6. Regarding the 4 additional bridges selected by the State Bridge and Road Advisory Committee (BRAC) for funding, Mr. Dunford noted the state did their on-site review and cost estimates of the bridges. The bridge prospectuses were signed for approximately \$3.5 million in construction cost.

Solid Waste Division:

D060383B 7. Julie Fox reported staff finished grinding all yard waste collected at the Landfill. This is a free service for the community and the material is spread out for a Landfill cap to control erosion.

060384 8. The office book and magazine exchange brought in 286 books and 178 magazines last week. This week the employees can take whatever books or magazines they want. The remaining books will be sold to the used bookstore in Pullman. Whatever money is earned will be used for gift certificates for employees who brought in the most books. Books not sold will be offered to schools and hospitals. The Chairman suggested the jail be included in the distribution.

D060384A 9. In recognition of the November 15th America Recycles Day, Ms. Fox had a table at the mall last Saturday where she passed out educational information, environmental friendly, and recycled products donated by the business community.

D060384B 10. There will be a school contest for grades K-6 whereby the students will be invited to draw pictures with a recycled theme. The 12 winning entries will be incorporated into a calendar and given to businesses and schools to encourage recycling.

Chairman Partch excused himself from the remainder of today's meetings.

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

2:00 p.m. - Karl Johanson, Council On Aging & Human Services.

Present: Dean Ferguson, Dane Dunford, and Phil Meyer.

060385 Mr. Johanson met with the Board as a result of the letter from Paul Gamble, WSDOT Public Transportation Office concerning the State Rural Mobility Grant sponsored by Whitman County for COAST (Council on Aging).

060386 Mr. Johanson presented a letter to the Board requesting authorization to be included in the current bidding process being conducted by WSDOT. This entails the ability to purchase one minibus funded by Rural Mobility grant #GCA2939. The county would make the official bid award with a 180-day specified delivery date.

Upon inquiry by Mr. Dunford, Mr. Johanson said the county (Public Works), as the sponsor of the grant, must pay for the vehicle first and is later reimbursed by the state. Mr. Dunford voiced two concerns: 1) that the paperwork for reimbursement not be very involved, and 2) since this is so late in coming and the fact his 2003 budget is already set, his budget may not be able to withstand a \$50,000-\$60,000 expenditure for any length of time. Therefore, he would need an amendment very quickly after paying for the vehicle.

Mr. Johanson agreed to prepare all necessary paperwork in a very timely manner. He also agreed COAST would pay all licensing fees as a RIDE-SHARE vehicle and not a "county exempt" vehicle.

Mr. Dunford also requested that the lease agreement between the county and COAST be completed before COAST takes delivery of the minibus so it can be reviewed by the county's legal department.

060387 After further discussion, **motion** was made by Commissioner Wigen and **seconded** by Commissioner Finch to participate in the state bid for one minibus and that Karl Johanson prepare all necessary paperwork for reimbursement to the county within 30 days. Mr. Johanson guaranteed the county would be reimbursed in 30 days either by WSDOT or COAST. **Motion carried.** A letter was subsequently faxed and mailed to Mr. Paul Gamble stating Whitman County is interested in participating in the current bidding process being conducted by WSDOT.

2:30 p.m. - Recess.

D060387A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **November 13, 2002** at **9:15 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch, and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

9:15 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.

Present: John Peterson.

060388 13. Items discussed included the 2003 preliminary budget, dues, memberships, lobbyist, CETC building, and civil deputy. No action taken.

12:00 p.m. - Adjournment.

D060388A Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **November 12 and 13, 2002** 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 18, 2002**. The foregoing action made this **13th** day of **November 2002**.

ss/ JERRY FINCH, Commissioner
ss/ LES WIGEN, Commissioner

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners