

## Minutes for November 14, 2005

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**064717 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **November 14, 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.

**064718 1.** Items discussed included JPAC, CIP funding, Pullman misdemeanor/gross misdemeanor contract, per diem, mileage reimbursement and the joint meeting with the Port Commissioners. No action taken.

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

Present: Thinh Nguyen and 7 residents.

**D064718A 2. Motion** by Commissioner Finch to approve the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

**064719 3.** Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **183688-183896** for **\$620,504.44** approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	48,051.29
101	Self Insurance	1,735.98
104	Developmental Services	2,749.23
110	County Roads	361,666.75
119	Emergency Services	12,262.82
123	Paths & Trails	225.93
127	Drug Enforcement-Quad City	279.76
132	Auditor's Document Preservation	210.40
300	Capital Projects	1,951.20
400	Solid Waste	14,959.24
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	167,000.41
510	Photocopier Revolving	1,343.95
660	Whitcom-General-660.911.000	2,016.07
660	Whitcom-Grant Funding-660.911.001	6,051.41

**064720 4.** November 7, 2005 minutes approved.

**064721 5.** Personnel board orders approved.

064722 6. Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to sign a proclamation as read for Travis Nixon.



**P R O C L A M A T I O N**

WHEREAS, thousands of our brave military troops were called to action by the President of the United States in the name of freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq; and,

WHEREAS, many of the troops came from the great State of Washington, from all walks of life, both active and reservists; and,

WHEREAS, many from Whitman County have put their lives and their families lives on hold to take part in Operation Iraqi Freedom; and,

WHEREAS, one of our own, U.S. Army Ranger Staff Sergeant Travis Nixon came under hostile fire and was killed October 29, 2005 while taking part in freeing an oppressed people; and,

WHEREAS, the Whitman County Commissioners and the people of Whitman County want to thank Staff Sergeant Nixon for defending the freedoms we take for granted daily.

WE NOW, THEREFORE, ISSUE THIS PROCLAMATION DECLARING U.S. ARMY RANGER STAFF SERGEANT Travis Nixon, A WHITMAN COUNTY

**"H E R O O F F R E E D O M"**

DATED THIS 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2005.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Greg Partch, Chairman

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**BOCC MINUTES-11/14/05**

ATTEST:

G.R. Finch, Commissioner

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Maribeth Becker, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

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Les Wigen, Commissioner

**064723** 7. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to publish a notice of hearing for the proposed 2006 Whitman County preliminary budget. Hearing to be held December 5, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Whitman County Commissioners' Chambers.

**064724** 8. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve removal of Mollie Beleiciks and Erin Manderville from the Whitman County Solid Waste Advisory Committee as requested.

9. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to accept the following levy certifications for 2006:

**064725** Town of Lamont,

**064726** Town of Oakesdale and

**064727** Superintendent of Public Instruction for all school districts.

**064728** 10. A fax was received from the City of Pullman concerning proposed action by the Council to urge the commissioners to amend the interlocal agreement for joint planning. They proposed excluding rural residential housing from the "urban reserve areas" and to work with the city to identify other areas such as the south bypass that might appropriately be added in the near future to urban reserve areas.

**064729** 11. An email was received from Justine Rupp, Planning Commission member requesting the Board support the rural residential document in its current form.

**D064729A** 12. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

**10:20 a.m. - Rural Residential Ordinance.**

Present: Approximately 20 residents.

**D064729B** The Chairman pointed out the law allows the Board to accept public comment and personal contacts up until the time they receive the official transmittal (findings of fact, recommendations and minutes) from the Planning Division. At that time, the Board is considered to be in a quasi-judicial position. Therefore, they have asked that the official transmittal not be submitted until 2:45 p.m. today to allow for comments and petitions. He then called for presentation of any petitions.

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**064730** Petition received from Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Doll via U.S. mail (1 partial page).

**064731** Petition personally received from April Coggins (1 partial page).

**064732** Petitions personally received from Don Nelson (8 partial/full pages).

Don Nelson's concern involved his attendance at a Planning Commission hearing and workshop where no comments could be submitted at either meeting. He wondered if the county commissioners would be conducting a public hearing. Chairman Partch said he could not answer Mr. Nelson's question until after 2:45 p.m. today as to when the Board would act on the official transmittal. He went on to say that the Board requested and received all the verbatim public comments from the Planning Commission's public meetings/hearings of July 20, 2005, October 12, 2005 and November 2, 2005 in advance of the official transmittal.

Don Nelson commented that the general public has not received a copy of the final proposed ordinance. Chairman Partch replied neither had the Board, but as he stated earlier, that would take place at 2:45 p.m. today.

Mr. Nelson asked how commissioners provide input to the Planning Commission and the Chairman responded through advertised joint workshops with all county commissioners in attendance. Attendance at a regular Planning Commission meeting by a county commissioner would be considered an undue influence on the public.

Louie White said he received the second sale denial on his ranch and thought the public should hear about it.

Kirk Suess requested clarification as to whether or not the commissioners will conduct a public hearing. Chairman Partch responded the commissioners have 3 choices, 1) accept the official transmittal in its current form, 2) remand the document to the Planning Commission requesting changes or 3) set their own public hearing.

**10:30 a.m. - Brenda Dillard, Colfax.**

Present: Approximately 20 residents.

**064733** Ms. Dillard presented (61 partial/full pages) petitions opposing the proposed Rural Residential ordinance noting other petitions did not get to her as yet. Her major objections included:

- Imposing a view shed with a minimum distance of 1600' between residents,
- Imposing a maximum distance of a residence to a county or state road,
- Imposing a 200' minimum setback from an agricultural property line,
- Prohibit building in highly visible locations (on hills or ridges),

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- Requiring a county official's approval of house or building location, size, design, color and landscaping plants,
- Requiring a county official's approval for lighting fixtures and bulb intensity, and
- Negative impacts on property values.

**064734** Mrs. Dillard went on to read her 9 page prepared statement (on file).

Greg Nolan, also representing his wife, as business and property owners said he has observed the Planning Commission and Planning Division over the past 11 years. The last 6 big homes he has been involved with, the Planning Commission considers them to be view sheds. Many are too big, wrong color, too close to agriculture. These are things that are the personal viewpoint of the Planner and Planning Commission. These homes bring in taxable income to the county, employ many types of contractors and the residents purchase goods and services in the county. For the long-term, there is less and less population in the rural portions of the county. The schools are getting smaller and businesses are closing. It is wrong to turn our backs on these people who have worked hard for what they have. No one should have the right to tell them their house is too big, the wrong color, etc. The county should be thanking these people for locating in to Whitman County and asking how can we help you. Taking WSU, Schweitzer Engineering and the Pullman-Moscow Corridor out of the picture, Nolan Heating was the last non-agricultural business he is aware of that built in this county other than the Dusty store. They still have some unresolved issues and he understands the frustrations of others. He understands growth must be managed, but Whitman County does not have a thriving growing economy outside of the Pullman circle and we need it from a county and business standpoint. He asked that the Board not devalue property as a result of the proposed restrictions.

**063735** Louie White said he chairs the County Road and Bridge Committee. Another division within the same department is taking growth away. It will take 20 years to come out of this if the ordinance is adopted as written. He thought the constitutionality of the proposed ordinance teeters on the takings law and would immediately devalue his property.

Discussion was temporarily tabled.

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

Present: Mark Storey, Phil Meyer, Cindi Lepper and approximately 20 residents.

**Action Items:**

**064736** 1. Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to award the bid for a 2006 John Deere 160 CLC diesel

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powered hydraulic excavator with trade-in to Rowand Machinery for a total bid amount of \$123,000 without tax.

**064737** The bid contract with Rowand Machinery was also executed.

**064738** 2. Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to extend the weed contract with Darry-Air, Inc. for calendar year 2006.

**Solid Waste Division:**

**064739** 3. Ms. Lepper partnered with WSU Extension for an Ag Information breakfast meeting. The topic was "*How to Keep the Department of Ecology (DOE) in Spokane and Away From You*". She invited area farmers who are also small quantity hazardous waste generators (producing 220 pounds or less per year). A total of 61 attended, 35 of which signed up for continuing education credits through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Applicator program. John Blunt of DOE gave a power point presentation he and Cindi developed and Kary Peterson, also of DOE fielded questions about agricultural burning. Returned surveys were very positive with the attendees mostly enjoying the breakfast and discussion about agricultural burning. Due to the success of the program, DOE would like to take this program on the road because statewide, they have never had such a large turnout for this type of meeting.

**Engineering Division:**

**D064739A** 4. The Engineer shared a picture of the completed White Elephant Bridge. (Bridge dedication ceremony will be held December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.) The Director said over the past couple weeks the Engineer and he have received a great deal of compliments about all 3 bridge projects, White Elephant, Peterson and Judson Bridge. He read a note of appreciation from Maggie McGreevy.

**Maintenance Division:**

**D064739B** 5. Maintenance crews continue to grade gravel roads and clean ditches and culvert.

**11:20 a.m. - Rural Residential Ordinance Discussion Continued.**

**D064739C** Louie White read the letter he received from a second individual declining to purchase his ranch "due to the fact that the planning commission of Whitman County does not seem very fond of expanding the community".

Mr. White said the Planning Division is still under the impression someone purchasing 20 or 50 acres cannot build a home on his property, drill a well and that cluster homes are only permitted in the Pullman area and nowhere else, which is fine. But for his property, people are looking at buying 20 or more acres and putting a private home on it. He wondered what difference it makes long as the buyer signs a letter that the property can't be removed

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from agriculture and he can farm around the house. He thought the Planning Commission was out of control and the county needs the income.

Commissioner Finch corrected Mr. White saying the county developed the cluster residential zone around Pullman first to work out the bugs in a smaller section rather than the entire county. After that time, they encouraged people to come forth with cluster residential developments in other portions of the county, but so far, no one has chosen to do so. They feel there are many areas outside of Pullman where cluster residential developments would work.

Commissioner Wigen added 4 years ago Palouse said they didn't want anything to do with cluster residential development. They did start with Pullman but cluster residential developing is now open to the entire county.

Some in attendance said they are getting different responses from the Planning Department about this.

Bob Zorb indicated he has worked with many planning committees in California but never did he run into a group of people so hostile and unhelpful. He called 50+ people in District 1 about rural residential and no one wants what is currently written.

Don Nelson said at the last Planning Commission workshop he attended, they dropped the 750' driveway requirement. They added variances to the view sheds, which he didn't think were worth anything, it just gives the planner more power. Another concern is that the rules need to be written to be understood.

Susan Fagan thought it would be a tremendous travesty of justice for the county commissioners not to hold their own public hearing to hear from the public themselves since they are not permitted to attend the Planning Commission hearings. Ms. Fagan said she has waited for this document for almost 7 years and it is the worst piece of public policy she has ever seen. She also expressed her frustration with the Planning Division.

Commissioner Finch reiterated that the Board did receive written transcripts from all the Planning Commission hearings which he has read.

Brenda Dillard said all 3 commissioners have given their word that there would be a public hearing. Commissioner Finch said he had not told anyone there would be a public hearing. He said the Board would consider it, but he is only one of three commissioners. Chairman Partch added, he previously said a hearing was one of their choices.

Bill Druffel of Colton, also an attorney, didn't feel the proposed ordinance would stand up in court and he believed the county would spend many years and dollars defending the document rather than making money. The current proposal does not allow him to build a house on property given to him by his

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family, although he has not gone through the formal process. He preferred to have the 3-year rule back that provides more flexibility rather than the proposed rule.

Commissioner Wigen said the Planning Commission, his fellow commissioners and the Planning staff know he cannot support this document. He supports everyone in the room that has taken a stand and tried to make a difference. He thanked Brenda Dillard for pointing out this is a Planning Commission document who voted unanimously November 9th to forward it to the county commissioners.

Susan Fagan noted Darin Watkins reminded people at a Planning Commission meeting that "view" has never stood up in court as something the state has ever considered. Mr. Bordsen later said the Planning Commission and he looked at the question of whether these could be legal or fought in court and he believed that the plan would stand.

Greg Nolan added there is no definition of view shed causing a gray area.

Louie White said when the Planner gets up before a full house and says we have no property rights there is a real problem.

Brenda Dillard stated she has 46 acres and with the 1,600' language she cannot build another house anywhere on her acreage. She would need more than 50 acres to build another home on her property.

Discussion was temporarily tabled.

**11:30 a.m. - Mike Berney, Palouse River Counseling Center (PRCC) and Greater Columbia Behavioral Health (GCBH).**

Present: Thinh Nguyen.

**064740** Mr. Berney provided a review of the upcoming GCBH Board meeting.

**064740A 1.** The hiring of a new Executive Director and lower office staff at the regional office has been put on hold pending further discussion by the Board.

**D064740B 2.** As required, action will be taken on the 7.01 Plan regarding how GCBH will work with federally recognized Indian Tribes (Yakima Nation). The plan is due to the Mental Health Division by December 1, 2005. Mr. Berney recommended Whitman County support the required update. No objections were raised.

**D064740C 3.** One new piece of information to the RFQ for the public Mental Health system is that Senator Hargrove, who got this ball rolling at the last legislative session, has sent a letter to DSHS Mental Health Division stating they have created something that was not his intent.

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Although, the December 1<sup>st</sup> timeline remains, DSHS Mental Health Division will review the document and contact all RSN's by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**D064740D 4.** Palouse River Counseling Center (PRCC) had their licensing visit from the Mental Health Division. An additional review of clinical files will be held in March 2006.

**D064740E 5.** Last month the contract for the Medicaid portion of the Mental Health system was signed. It was recently pulled back because the Mental Health Division sent out a new amendment. Revised contracts for the 2005-2007 state only Mental Health contract should be ready for approval within the next 2-3 weeks.

**11:55 a.m. - Recess.**

**1:00 p.m. - Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.**

Present: Tim Myers, Bob Reynolds, Bob Lothspeich, Denis Tracy and Mark Storey and Sharron Cunningham (1:00 p.m.) and Kelli Campbell (2:00 p.m.).

**064741 13.** Items discussed included Aflac and space allocation. No action taken.

**2:35 p.m. - April Coggins.**

Present: Michael Schuler, Tammy Lewis, Thing Nguyen, Jim Hawks, Don and Jane Nelson, Brenda Dillard, Kirk Suess, Jean Wardwell and John Mader.

**064742** Ms. Coggins, a member of Business and Residents for Economic Opportunity (BREO) read a prepared statement (on file) concerning:

- Proposed zoning ordinances,
- Urging the commissioners to conduct a public hearing on the Rural Residential ordinance, and
- Questioning the application of the quasi-judicial process for the Rural Residential ordinance.

**064743** Chairman Partch said the Board wasn't totally clear on what they could or could not do therefore they requested an opinion from MRCS.

Mrs. Coggins thought it important to keep communications open so the citizens don't feel they are completely shut down from providing comments.

The commissioners had no objections to forwarding the information to the County Prosecutor for his opinion.

Kirk Suess wanted to see the proposed comprehensive plan go back to the Planning Commission. He also suggested the Planning Commission conduct their meetings in various locations throughout the county. He mentioned

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what is happening to agriculture west of SR 195 is different from what is happening east of SR 195 making the profit margin on the west side very small. He voiced his support for owner's rights and paraphrased comments made to him by Commissioner Finch over lunch.

Brenda Dillard said when you move into a community that has CC&R's you know it before you buy. A person either accepts them or they don't purchase the property. All these things being imposed on the landowners are after-the-fact, extremely restrictive, unfair and smacks of socialism.

### **2:50 p.m. - Mark Bordsen, County Planner.**

Present: Michael Schuler, Tammy Lewis, Thing Nguyen, Jim Hawks, Don and Jane Nelson, Brenda Dillard, Kirk Suess, Jean Wardwell and John Mader.

**064744** The official transmittal of amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning and Subdivision ordinances (Rural Residential) was received from the Planner.

Commissioner Finch said after this morning's meeting he sought out the Prosecutor and asked him to read this document before the Board makes a formal decision. If the document is not defensible like some people have indicated and if the Prosecutor agrees, there is no sense in going through this process. The Prosecutor said it would take him 3-4 weeks before he could provide a written opinion.

Commissioner Wigen said they need a public hearing and the Prosecutor needs to review this document. He too thought it wise to pass this document to the Prosecutor today.

Commissioner Finch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to postpone a decision on the Rural Residential ordinance, refer it to the Prosecutor and subsequent to that decide the next step.

### **3:00 p.m. - Port of Whitman County Commissioners.**

Present: Bob Gronholz, Dan Boone, Tammy Lewis, April Coggins, Think Nguyen and Michelle Dupler.

The following issues were discussed at the joint quarterly meeting of the Port and County Commissioners.

**064745** 1. The 2005 WA-CERT prioritization was reviewed and no changes made. Commissioner Finch agreed to visit with Ken Olson of PEDC to ask if they would be interested in taking the lead in the WA-CERT process. Chairman Partch gave an update on Farmington's \$1 million water and sewer system rehabilitation project.

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**D064745A 2.** Commissioner Gronholz said the Community Education Training Center (CETC) building is on the Port Commissioners' November 17<sup>th</sup> agenda. The last he heard, the county prosecutor and the Port's attorney are working on the details for a possible transfer to the county.

**D064745B 3.** Commissioner Boone said the Port commissioners had their last meeting with the bonding attorney on the ISR project, which will also be a topic at the next board meeting. (The Port is required to make a quarterly report to the county commissioners on the status of this project and will be on the quarterly joint Port/County Commissioners agendas. The county is also awaiting a promissory note from the Port.) With the help of the county and the Port securing bond funding, Commissioner Boone thought this project would be a very positive step for Whitman County. Commissioner Gronholz said one of the exciting things about ISR is that they are now proceeding into the private sector. Up to this point, they have had all government contracts. He understands they have opened two other offices, one in southern California and one in Seattle.

**064745C 4.** Commissioner Finch said after working on the Pullman-Moscow Corridor (PMC) for the past 2-3 years, revisions to the plan were recently adopted. There seems to be some genuine interest by businesses wanting to locate in the Corridor. By clicking on Hawkins Companies, a Commercial Developer at [http://www.hawkinscompanies.com/fliers/WA\\_Pullman\\_Hwy270\\_AirportRd\\_F.pdf](http://www.hawkinscompanies.com/fliers/WA_Pullman_Hwy270_AirportRd_F.pdf) you can view this company's proposed projects in various locations including the PMC. The county commissioners talked about some of the changes made to the plan and the Department of Transportation's SR 270 project through the PMC.

**D064745D 5.** Commissioner Finch said since the county contracted with Palouse Economic Development Council (PEDC) as its ADO Coordinator, each county can have up to 4 voting members on the PEDC board; one must be a county commissioner (Finch). The PEDC thought one member should be a Port Commissioner, one member at large and one businessperson from the private sector. The county commissioners would like the Port to offer up one commissioner to serve on the PEDC board. Commissioner Boone said they would add this item to their November 17<sup>th</sup> agenda and respond back to the county.

**D064745E 6.** The Chairman mentioned Tammy Lewis is now employed by PEDC to work on Whitman County's ADO contract. Ms. Lewis explained PEDC and WSU Extension are now partnering. Extension provides her office space and supplies in exchange for assisting Steve VanVleet with biodiesel for a combined total of 20 hours/week. She also talked about the upcoming January 3<sup>rd</sup> biodiesel meeting in preparation for submitting a consolidated proposal by producers and growers to the legislators to aid them in moving biodiesel up on the priority list for this area. Their goal is to show the importance of biodiesel with the hope some grants would be put in place to help build a plant or crushing facilities.

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**D064745F 7.** The next joint quarterly meeting will be held in February 2006.

**4:20 p.m. - Recess.**

**D064745G THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **November 15, 2005** at **2:10 p.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, G.R. "Jerry" Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

**2:10 p.m. - Call to Order/Board of Health.**

Present: Fran Martin, John Skyles, Michael Baker and Dr. Moody.

**D064745H 1.** Dr. Moody indicated flu shots are available to everyone at this time. To date, very little flu has been reported in the State of Washington. Many people don't understand the difference between the Bird Flu, the regular flu and the pandemic flu. Therefore, a working group was convened with WSU, the City of Pullman and Public Health to take the first steps in what they consider to be their pandemic flu plan. Part of that process involves a public information campaign. They are working with WSU public information and communications marketing classes to disseminate appropriate college age information regarding respiratory etiquette, steps people can take to prevent the illness and identifying the steps to be taken should a pandemic flu outbreak occur.

**D064745I 2.** Environmental Health continues to assist Columbia County. According to Mr. Skyles, the load is very manageable.

**D064745J 3.** On-site sewage issues are slowing down.

**D064745K 4.** Mr. Skyles received an email from the State Department of Health, Environmental Assessment Division who forwarded him a letter from a concerned citizen in Endicott about the storage of anhydrous ammonia near the school and town. The citizen felt the 2 storage facilities posed a direct threat to the health and security of the town also noting children and others in the community have succumbed to a rare disease (cancer/farmer's disease) directly related to long-term ammonia exposure. A state epidemiologist performed a search and found no association with ammonia exposure or any form of cancer/farmer's disease. Mr. Skyles forwarded the report to the complainant whose later response lead to the Prosecutor's involvement.

**D064745L 5.** Fran Martin said the department received a suspicious letter requiring the Sheriff's involvement. The letter proved to be safe however, the Sheriff personally delivered a response to the author.

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**D064745M 6.** Mr. Skyles provided an update on Environmental Health solid waste issues.

**064746 7.** Director Martin said Michael Baker has been assigned to the new state Smoke-Free Washington program since it is so closely associated with the food establishment program. Tammy Cochran, Public Health Tobacco Coordinator will work with Mr. Baker for assistance and compliance with the new tobacco rules effective December 8, 2005.

Mr. Baker reviewed the new regulations pointing out enforcement has shifted from the fire department to the Public Health Department.

Business owners will have 2 primary responsibilities:

- 1) Prohibit smoking in their establishment and
- 2) Post signs that say "Smoke-Free Establishment".

Enforcement involves a two-step process:

- 1) Verbal followed by written notice and
- 2) \$100 civil infraction fee plus court costs. (The entity writing the infraction retains the fee.)

Public Health's focus will be educational. The State Department of Health and Public Health will jointly send educational information to restaurant owners about the change. The Department of Health will conduct weekly conference calls to iron out any problems that may arise, learn how other counties are addressing similar problems and what legal steps need to be taken.

Mr. Baker talked about what constitutes an exception to this regulation. Ms. Martin noted Public Health does not have the authority to grant any exceptions to this state regulation. At this time, their role is totally educational. Once all the dust settles, the Director thought this program would operate similar to the compliance checks program, whereby Public Health does the checking and infractions are referred to another agency.

Commissioner Finch said unless the county has the staff, because he is not inclined to hire more staff, the amount of time spent on this program will take away from other programs. He preferred staff time be spent making sure restaurant kitchens are in compliance, which is a greater health risk. Michael Baker said his focus would be to educate and provide information to the owners. Environmental Health will have done their part thereby allowing him time to focus on other issues with immediate impacts on public safety.

**D064746A 8.** Public Health flu clinics are now in full swing. Although they have not received their full vaccine order, they are still trying to help other establishments at high risk for exposure.

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**D064746B 9.** After months of search, the Department is still without a dietician. Ms. Martin is awaiting a response from the Classification Committee for their consideration in reclassifying this position as a critical/essential position. She is also waiting to hear from the collective bargaining unit agreeing to allow her to contract for this service. Ms. Martin said since there is a statewide shortage of dieticians, she was in hopes the WIC and First Steps programs that require a dietician won't punish the department too severely.

**064747 10.** The Director shared a sample prescription drug card prepared for Whitman County. The card is designed to mainly assist under-insured or residents who have no medical insurance. For that reason, Ms. Martin plans to reduce the original amount of cards ordered from 10,000 to 5,000 for distribution to WSU students, Community Action Center, Health Department referrals and jail inmates. This is not an insurance plan but rather a discount prescription program and cannot be used in addition to Medicare Part D. A press release will be issued in the next couple weeks once the cards are available. Public Health will maintain a database of all cards issued.

**064748 11.** The Director reminded the commissioners Public Health lost one person at the Pullman office through budget reductions. An employee at the Colfax office has a terminally ill spouse and has been in/out most of the year. Remaining staff has been trying to cover the work shortages, but have found they are falling further behind. Therefore, Ms. Martin requested authorization to close the Colfax Public Health office everyday at 4:00 p.m. until the end of the year. This will allow staff an hour each day to catch up on their work and also compensate for staff gone during the holidays. Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to authorize the Colfax Public Health/Emergency Management office to close at 4:00 p.m. everyday through 12/31/05.

**D064748A 12.** Ms. Martin received authorization from Marty Best of FEMA to begin billing now for expenses paid from the hazardous mitigation fund.

**D064748B 13.** The Director was fairly confident Whitman County would be successful in securing an imaging grant through the Secretary of State's office. Official notification is scheduled for December 2005.

**D064748C 14.** Chairman Partch talked about the Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington partnership with Rural Resources in Colville to provide flu vaccines to seniors. Ms. Martin said it is a service Public Health would be very interested in providing, but she never knows from year-to-year the amount of vaccine the department will receive.

**D064748D 15.** Public Health plans to offer Columbia County a packaged program that includes an administrator, clerical and Environmental Health services.

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D064748E 16. The next Board of Health meeting is December 20<sup>th</sup>.

3:00 p.m. - Adjournment.

D064748F Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **November 14 and 15, 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 **November 21, 2005**. The foregoing action made this **15th** day of **November 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