

Minutes for November 18th, 2002

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060389 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **November 18, 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.

D060389A 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Dean Ferguson.

D060389B 2. Motion by Commissioner Finch to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

060390 3. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered 142297-142565 for \$288,003.92 approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	\$ 88,391.87
102	Building & Development	235.86
103	Countywide Planning	255.27
104	Developmental Services	1,033.24
105	Mental Health	36,585.23
107	Chemical Dependency	1,401.86
110	County Roads	21,257.26
112	Public Facilities Improvement	1,686.60
117	Boating Safety	118.36
118	Inmate Welfare	326.24
119	Emergency Services	54.00
123	Paths & Trails	350.86
126	Treasurer's M&O	29.08
127	Drug Enforcement	15,775.94
137	Web Site Development	60.32
300	Capital Projects	2,652.67
320	Cap. Proj./Outside Sources (Bond)	8,931.99
400	Solid Waste	10,379.69
410	Solid Waste Reserve	23.62
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	93,540.52
510	Photocopier Revolving	1,470.99
513	Communications Revolving	2,165.25
521	Family Svc. Ctr. Revolving	1,101.02
690	Clearing & Suspense	176.18

060391 4. November 12, 2002 minutes approved.

060392-060402 5. Personnel board orders approved.

060403 6. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to publish the notice of hearing for the 2003 Whitman County budget.

060404 7. Correspondence was received between WSDOT and Representative Mark Schoesler regarding access to a proposed cell site facility off of SR 26 at milepost 115.

060405 8. A letter of support for Community Action Center's application to Americorps was forwarded to John Miller of Americorps.

060406 9. Notice of a proposed annexation to the Town of Lacrosse was received and reviewed.

10:15 a.m. - Chuck Dunnahoo and Shiraz Vira.

060407 10. A response to the Commissioners letter sent to Governor Locke regarding business signs on SR 26 was received from Jerry Lenzi, WSDOT. This item will be discussed in the Board's workshop.

060408 11. Information pertaining to Council on Aging's Rural Mobility Grant #GCA2939 was received from Paul Gamble.

060409 12. A letter inviting Whitman County to join the Palouse Rural Transportation Planning Organization was received from Don Scheibe, Chairperson.

13. Letters were received from Lee Elliott, Community, Trade and Economic Development inquiry as to the October subcontract activity reports for:

060410 Contract #F-99-74099-015-Community Action Center-General Purpose grant; and,

060411 Contract #01-64021-038-Community Action Center-Lead Based Paint grant.

The Community Action Center is looking into this matter.

D060411A 14. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

D060411B 15. The Clerk was instructed to bill the Port of Whitman County for reimbursement of Airport improvements in the amount of \$9,200. An invoice was forwarded to the Port.

10:30 a.m. - **Chad Dunnahoo, NRSC.**

Present: Shiraz Vira, Upper Columbia Resource Conservation & Development (UCRC&D).

D060411C The gentlemen gave an update on the status of the UCRC&D. Mr. Dunnahoo said he has been with the organization for 1-1/2 years. Within

those 1-1/2 years he was called to active duty and was gone for 1 year. While he was gone, there were no board meetings.

With respect to the past debt incurred by the UCRC&D, it has since been reduced by 90% and they continue to work on the remaining balance that should be cleared in the next month. Both Mr. Dunnahoo and Mr. Vira are in the process of contacting past sponsors, looking for new sponsors and future projects.

Commissioner Finch, Whitman County's representative, attended the last (February 2001) meeting. It was agreed not to conduct any meetings until the Coordinator returned from active duty, resolve the debt issue, and be prepared to give the Coordinator general direction. The members must now decide if the organization is going to be viable and if so, it will need to be built back up.

Mr. Dunnahoo said they plan to hold a meeting in January in Spokane at their Rock Pointe office and all previous sponsors are being invited.

Mr. Vira said accounting of officers was another issue previously. The bylaws have since been revised and the issue resolved. The RC&D hopes to look at other issues that are more closely related with their mission.

Commissioner Finch thought the UCRC&D was probably a good program and now is the time to rebuild it and have the Conservation Districts take it into a new direction.

Mr. Vira asked for Whitman County's continued support and leadership. Commissioner Finch will attend the January meeting on behalf of Whitman County and future participation by Whitman County will be left up to his discretion.

10:45 a.m. - Recess.

11:00 a.m. - Phil Meyer, Public Works.

Present: Mark Storey and Dean Ferguson.

060412 1. Paperwork associated with the small works roster tandem axle cargo trailer award was received from Mr. Meyer.

Maintenance Division:

D060412A 2. Maintenance crews continue grading roads.

11:15 a.m. - Mike Berney, WCCS Director.

D060412B Mr. Berney requested and was authorized to refill the receptionist position at WCCS.

11:20 a.m. - Recess.

11:30 a.m. - Bob Lothspeich, County Treasurer.

Present: John Peterson, Joe Reynolds, Eunice Coker, Randy Baldree, Mike Berney, Mike Werner, Doug Robinson, Fran Martin, Kelli Campbell, Bev Welch, Chad Connors, Tim Myers, Dave Frazier, Peggy Wright, Bob Reynolds, and Dean Ferguson.

The following individuals contacted the Treasurer regarding their absence from today's meeting: Dane Dunford and Jim Kaufman.

060413 The October 2002 ending financial report provided by Lothspeich.

October 2002 Cash Balance - \$1,596,022

October 2001 Cash Balance - \$1,889,288

October 2002 Revenue - \$6,992,507 - 81.34% of budget.

October 2001 Revenue - \$7,230,453 - 82.86% of budget.

October 2002 Expenditures \$7,051,488 - 77.86% of budget.

October 2001 Expenditures \$6,925,237 - 76.29% of budget.

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

1:00 p.m. - Mike Werner, Developmental Services.

060414 1. Mr. Werner previously spoke to the Board about additional funding from the state that has come through in the amount of \$9,300. This is discretionary money that can be used to work with families and other related activities. The Developmental Services Advisory Board would also like to do a better job of providing information/education throughout the county and get a good start on their summer recreation programs for youths and adults. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to authorize the Chairman to sign the DSHS Family Support Community Service Grant amendment #0263-15492 in the amount of \$9,300. This is a one-year amendment beginning July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2003.

060415 On Wednesday Mr. Werner will be attending a County Coordinator's meeting with the main topic of discussion being the new State Supplemental Payments (SSP) legislation affecting 14 Whitman County residents. Instead of the services being provided through the county for these 14 people, the state will now give these individuals \$300-\$500/month each to purchase their own services, moving them from county authorized services to individual sponsored services. This amounts to 14% (\$57,000) of the county Developmental Services budget and is intended to save the state \$28 million. The county has already written a letter objecting to this legislation. Their only other recourse is to visit with the local legislators. These 14 individuals can only use this money to purchase services through a county authorized vendor. The county's process to award request for proposals (RFP's) to contractors becomes even more critical.

Many people not developmentally disabled but have other types of disabilities, i.e. blind, physically disabled, etc. lost services because of this legislation pulling their supplemental payments. The state just

focused on individuals with developmental disabilities in order to capture federal dollars.

At some point Olympia decided they weren't showing enough maintenance of effort for the federal program. In order to show more people going on this program they looked up people 21+ years of age, eligible for social security, and not on a state waiver (an indication of how disabled a person is). Persons categorized as wavered are at risk of going to an institution.

The local legislators will be meeting with the Pullman City Council on December 10th. For the past few years the Developmental Services Advisory Board (DSAB) has dovetailed this meeting by meeting with the legislators prior to the City Council meeting. This item will obviously be on the agenda.

The challenge with this legislation is that it saves the state money. By moving state-only funded, category 8 individuals to a federal matching program saves the state money.

Counties will be asking the state to ensure they retain the administrative portion of the 14% reduction, which is 5.25%, but even at that, Mr. Werner wasn't sure it would fund the intensity, running somewhat against what the local DVR Case Manager does.

The current system is designed for a one-on-one individual coordination. Currently, the money flows through the county contract, Mr. Werner works with the DVR Case Manager and the service providers at Palouse Industries.

With the new system, the money will go directly to the individuals. Mr. Werner will be dealing with the individuals, possibly a guardian or parent, the DVR Case Manager, and Palouse Industries.

The only good news about this legislation is that it provides another round of funding for unfunded transitions involving a number of developmentally disabled high school graduates that did not previously receive any services.

The commissioners offered to do whatever they could to assist Mr. Werner.

060416 As a result of this information, the DSAB Board thought it was important to have a meeting on November 26 after Mr. Werner returns from the County Coordinator's meeting.

060416A 2. In recognition of Palouse Industries and the Early Learning Services 35th anniversary, Mr. Werner prepared a letter for the commissioners' signatures, also to be signed by the Chair of the Developmental Services Advisory Board and himself.

D060416B 3. The appointment of a new member and reappointment of current members to the Developmental Services Advisory Board whose terms will expire December 31st will be brought to the commissioners in December.

1:30 p.m. - Dan Brown, Information Services.

Present: Phil Meyer, and Bob Reynolds.

060417 Mr. Brown gave a presentation associated with process and costs to connect the Nolan Building, Fairgrounds, and Colfax County Shop with the county's telephone and networking systems.

Bob Reynolds pointed out if and when the county begins developing the fiber optic features in the area, all county facilities should be included in the development package. It is not feasible to cut into the system later after the package is set up and Mr. Brown concurred.

Phil Meyer said the Director indicated he was only in agreement because it would be a cost-savings to Public Works. If approved, Public Works would need plenty of notice and this would have to be done during the proper season in order for Public Works to install the lines themselves.

Nolan Building - \$16,582.26 - Cost deducted from bond funds.
County Shop - \$ 7,446.85 - Possibly paid by Public Works.
Fairgrounds - \$ 9,017.10 - Cost deducted from .08 funds.
Total Wireless - \$ 3,205.52 - Cost deducted from .08 funds.

Mr. Brown said payment of the \$200/month phone charges would also have to be determined. Mr. Reynolds said the Fairground's portion would simply supplant their regular phone budget and Mr. Meyer added the same would happen with Public Works.

Motion by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to approve and proceed this year with the Fairgrounds and Nolan Building telephone and networking systems and to discuss the County Shop telephone and networking systems with the Public Works Director.

2:05 p.m. - Board of Health.

Present: Fran Martin and Patrick O'Dell.

060418 1. Ms. Martin reviewed the proposed revised fees for Public Health. The Board will render a decision on this matter at the December 17th Board of Health meeting.

060419 2. The Director shared copies of the intake form with the fee schedule used by the Public Health nurses each time they see a client. The nurse also determines if the client fits the sliding fee schedule. Next year the information will be in a database saving much time.

D060419A 3. Mr. O'Dell talked about an outbreak at a WSU sorority he is currently investigating.

D060419B 4. Ms. Martin said the Columbia County Health District is preparing to move to their new location in December at the Columbia Family Clinic facility.

D060419C 5. Motion by Commissioner Finch to go into Executive Session with Ms. Martin for discussion of personnel matters until 3:00 p.m. **Seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

3:00 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Recess.

3:05 p.m. - Eunice Coker, County Auditor.

Present: Joe Reynolds and Jim Hawkes.

D060419D The Auditor requested and received authorization to promote an Office Specialist to the Elections Supervisor position, to refill the Office Specialist position, and to increase the hourly rate for a temporary Financial Specialist.

3:10 p.m. - Recess.

3:15 p.m. - Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.

Present: Joe Reynolds and Jim Hawkes.

060420 16. Items discussed included the 2003 budget, surplus copier, dues and memberships, State Examiner's response to indigent burials, the inmate welfare fund, and the Port's authority for CETC, joint planning, the letter from Jerry Lenzi, lobbyist contract, taking tax revenues into account on bids, UCRC&D, and emergency services funding. No action taken.

5:00 p.m. - Adjournment.

D060420A Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **November 18, 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 25, 2002**. The foregoing action made this **18th** 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