

Minutes for November 27, 2006

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066136 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **November 27, 2006** at **9:00 a.m.** G.R. Finch, Chairman, Greg Partch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

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

066137 1. The item discussed was deputy prosecutors' wages. No action taken.

9:45 a.m. - Recess.

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

Present: Kelli Campbell, Joe Smillie and Jana Davidson.

D066137A 2. Motion by Commissioner Wigen to accept the consent agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried**.

066138 3. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **197556-197603** for **\$58,487.98** approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	16,503.63
102	Building & Development	201.65
103	Countywide Planning	30.36
104	Developmental Services	67.38
110	County Roads	24,113.95
127	Drug Enforcement-Quad City	726.58
400	Solid Waste	30.46
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	16,813.97

066139 4. November 20, 2006 minutes approved.

066140-066145 5. Personnel board orders approved.

10:05 a.m. - Michael Largent.

066146 6. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the World Aids Day proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

WORLD AIDS DAY - DECEMBER 1, 2006

Whereas, 2006 is the 25th anniversary of the identification of "AIDS" and this epidemic has now spread to every part of the US and to all sectors of society - with over 15,800 cases of HIV/AIDS infection here in Washington State and 40,000 new cases of HIV each year in the United States; and,

Whereas, UNAIDS estimates that over 38 million people worldwide are currently living with HIV/AIDS, with young people under the age of 25 accounting for more than half of all new infections; and,

Whereas, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) observes December 1 of each year as World AIDS Day, a day to expand and strengthen worldwide efforts to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS; and,

Whereas, continued commitments are needed by all governments and policy makers to combat HIV, the World AIDS Campaign theme for 2006 has to do with accountability: "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise"; and,

Whereas, Whitman County Health Department urges every person to increase their awareness of the risk of HIV/AIDS for themselves and to use their influence in their families, among their friends and in their communities to help stem the tide of the HIV/AIDS epidemic; and,

Whereas, World AIDS Day 2006 provides an opportunity for each one of us to fight against HIV by reducing the stigma, carrying out prevention efforts, and accepting and caring for our HIV infected neighbors.

Now, therefore, be it hereby proclaimed that the Whitman County Board of Commissioners hereby declare Whitman County will observe World AIDS Day on December 1, 2006.

Be it further proclaimed that we urge all citizens to take part in activities and observances designed to increase awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS as a local and global challenge.

Dated this 27th day of November 2006.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

G.R. Finch, Chairman

Greg Partch, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Maribeth Becker, CMC

Les Wigen, Commissioner

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Clerk of the Board

066147 7. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to have the Chairman sign the Teamsters vision contract.

066148 8. Commissioner Wigen **moved**, Commissioner Partch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to sign a letter to Clark Miller authorizing a second 1-year extension to develop the Rock Lake Planned Residential Development (PRD). This extension expires 10/02/07.

066149 9. The commissioners accepted the 2007 school district levy certification from Educational Service District #101.

D066149A 10. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

10:15 a.m. - Recess.

10:25 a.m. - Mark Storey, Public Works Director.

Present: Mark Bordsen, Mariah Simpson, Joe Smillie, Jana Davidson and Commissioner Elect Largent.

Planning Division:

066150 1. Mariah Simpson distributed the official transmittal for a zone change request from Agricultural District to Rural Community Residential (RCR) District submitted by Randy Scholz. The original rezone request was reduced in size by the property owner and approved by the Planning Commission. In doing so, it eliminated the Commissions' concerns. Upon review of the information presented Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to set the date of 12/04/06 at 11 a.m. to make a decision on the Randy Scholz zone change from Agricultural District to Rural Community Residential District.

Maintenance Division:

D066150A 2. Mark Storey noted a few sanders were out on some county roads yesterday (Sunday) and again today.

Engineering Division:

D066150B 3. According to the Director, the contractor was able to complete the main road paving on the Almota Road last week. They were not able to complete the road approach work. The decision was previously made not to do the overlay work from the hospital to Airport Road. Both of these projects will take place in the spring of 2007. Mr. Storey still anticipates striping Almota Road this year and again next year. The road may have to be closed for a couple hours to allow for curing time.

The state's decision for Phase 2 of the Almota Road project is scheduled for April 2007 and Mr. Storey felt Whitman County has a 90% chance of receiving

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funding. A funding request for Phase 3 will be submitted in the next biennium. The project would begin where Phase 2 ends to the top of Henning Hill. Phase 4 would begin at the top of Henning Hill and end at the SR 194 intersection.

10:50 a.m. - Recess.

11:40 a.m. - Keith Stoffel, Department of Ecology (DOE) Eastern Region Water Resources Section Manager and Mimi Wainwright, Eastern Region Watershed Lead.

Present: Joe Smillie and Jana Davidson.

066151 Mr. Stoffel said the purpose of today's meeting is to inquiry whether or not Whitman County would like to consult with DOE on a voluntary regional agreement (VRA) drafted and proposed by the Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association (CSRIA).

The following documents presented:

- 066152** Columbia River Management Program.
- 066153** Frequently asked questions about VRA.
- 066154** Diagram of process initiated by DOE and proponent.
- 066155** Informational sheet about the CSRIA draft VRA

This is a state program formerly known as the Columbia River initiative to obtain new water supplies for out-of-stream and in-stream uses. The main thrust is water storage and water conservation. It is all about taking water out of the Columbia River system in the winter and putting it in storage then later allocating 2/3 for new out-of-stream uses and 1/3 in-stream uses. Legislation requires the state to develop new water supplies, create a new water resource database, forecast water demands and allow for VRA's. This is a mechanism for groups of water user to enter into co-ops to free up water through storage and/or conservation efforts in order to mitigate new water rights out of the Columbia River system. The qualifying factor is that there cannot be any negative impact on the Columbia River from July-August and no negative impact on the Snake River from April-August. The state would purchase new water rights through these conservation efforts.

11:45 a.m. - Mark Storey and Mark Bordsen.

Mr. Stoffel went on to review the 2006-07 action plan, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and policy questions, how conservation and storage projects will be evaluated, VRA's, draft CSRIA VRA, sample payment schedules and a diagram of other counties/agencies participating in the CSRIA VRA.

Mark Storey said this would affect the north and south forks of the Palouse River because they are tributaries to the Snake River. Anything here would

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affect surface water throughout Whitman County because every drop of water in Whitman County ultimately gets to the Snake River. Therefore, it would be an indirect impact on any surface water rights. There are a number of people in the western portion of the county that use surface irrigation from the Palouse River causing them to be potentially affected. Mr. Stoffel said the only people who can obtain a new water right or have their water right covered are members of the Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association who are a party to the VRA. Water right holders in Whitman County can form their own VRA if they so choose to better manage their water usage.

Mimi Wainwright asked if it would be helpful for the WRIA Watershed Planning Unit to look at the possibility of entering into a VRA? Chairman Finch didn't want to pit eastern Washington against central Washington, but he was not opposed to the Planning Unit submitting a recommendation. Commissioner Partch was not opposed to the VRA discussions, but didn't feel it applied to Whitman County.

As a final comment, Mr. Stoffel noted December 15th is the deadline for the 60-day comment period.

12:25 p.m. - Recess.

1:30 p.m. - Mike Berney, Greater Columbia Behavioral Health (GCBH).

Present: Jana Davidson.

Commissioner Wigen was unavailable.

066156 1. Mr. Berney stated the supplemental budget request was on the GCBH November agenda but pulled at the last minute. They are past the half way mark of this biennium and there are adjustments that need to be made to the GCBH budget to reflect unanticipated activity at the time the budget was adopted. Current budget: \$77.8M; Proposed budget: \$81.0M. The supplemental request proposed by staff is \$3,147,366. The need for this supplemental budget request is due primarily to additional expectations by the Division of Mental Health and additional funding to go along with those expectations (i.e. Inpatient & PACT Team). Highlights:

- \$2.537M of Medicaid funding for inpatient payments to be released into the outpatient service system (counties);
- \$241,500 for professional services, primarily programming, Ombuds, and legal;
- Salaries \$51,400 to implement Board decisions and temporary help in the Information Services Department.

Since the Board provided formal action last month no action was necessary today.

D066156A 2. The Tribal Coordination Plan is also known as the 7.01 Plan and in one form or another has been a requirement for many years. The proposed plan basically describes a series of things they are already

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doing. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to vote in favor of adoption.

D066156B 3. Review of 5 current GCBH policies is on the GCBH agenda. Since Mr. Berney had not seen any information related to any proposed policy changes he was assuming the policies are on the agenda for initial review and not to be voted on or to be renewed with no changes.

D066156C 4. For many years the psychiatric inpatient usage in Benton and Franklin Counties, as measured by bed days used per 1,000 of population, has been much higher (for adults: 178 v 58 v 54) than anywhere else within Greater Columbia. This much higher than average usage impacts the other GCBH Counties and it is almost certain that this impact will be increasing. "Phase 3" of the GCBH Inpatient Savings model, has been approved by the Board without bed day targets. The Funding Committee was asked to recommend targets for Board consideration. The committee will be recommending that no target be set for children at this time and that targets of approximately 141 and 71 be established for the next two fiscal years for adults. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to approve the recommendation.

D066156D 5. As part of the legislation that provided temporary new capacity at the State hospitals there was also funding for Programs for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) outreach teams. GCBH has been allocated \$1.3M for one full PACT team in this round. The initial thinking was that this new team would focus its efforts in Benton and Franklin Counties but there were some significant concerns with that approach. The GCBH Board established an Ad-Hoc Committee in November and Mr. Berney was asked to be a member. The committee's task was to clarify requirements, summarize issues and concerns and make recommendations for Board consideration. The committee met twice and has produced a briefing document for the Board to review at its next meeting (copy included). Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to support the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Committee.

D066156E 6. Now that the funds to pay psychiatric inpatient bills are held by GCBH rather than the Mental Health Division the State is contractually requiring that two Inpatient Reserve Funds be established (Medicaid/State). Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to support the enabling resolutions.

D066156F 7. Amendments to the Mental Health Block Grant (aka: Federal Block Grant) and PATH contracts between GCBH and member governments/providers relates primarily to billing and reporting requirements and passing along changes to the General Terms and Conditions section. The PATH contracts do not apply to services in Whitman County. One of the changes to the General Terms and Conditions seems to limit GCBH's ability to sue the State. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner

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Finch **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to support the recommendation based on legal counsel's advice.

8. Letters received from Mike Berney advising the commissioners of two individuals no longer acting as Whitman County Designated Mental Health Professionals.

066157 Alicia Powell

066158 Becky Nguyen

2:00 p.m. - Board Business Continued/BOCC Field Trip.

Present: Mark Storey, Mark Bordsen, Alan Thomson and Mariah Simpson.

Commissioner Wigen did not participate in the field trip.

D066158A 11. Commissioners Partch and Finch toured areas of the county with Planning Staff members concerning rural residential development. No action taken.

4:00 p.m. - Recess.

D066158B THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **November 28, 2006** at **2:00 p.m.** G.R. Finch, Chairman, Greg Partch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

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

Present: Gary and Valerie Hunt and Kelli Campbell.

D065158C 12. Commissioner Partch **moved**, Commissioner Wigen **seconded** the motion and it **carried** to go into executive session with the above individual(s) until 3:00 p.m. for personnel matters.

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

Present: Mark Storey, Mark Bordsen, Alan Thomson, Mariah Simpson and Gary Kopf (3:50 p.m.).

D066158D 13. The issue of rural residential development was discussed. No action taken.

5:00 p.m. - Adjournment.

D066158E Commissioner Partch **moved** to adjourn the **November 27 and 28, 2006** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in their Chambers', in the Whitman County

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Courthouse, Colfax, Washington, on **December 4, 2006**. The foregoing action made this **28th** day of **November 2006**.

ss/ Greg PARTCH, Commissioner
ss/ LES WIGEN, Commissioner

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

G.R. FINCH, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners