

## Minutes for December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002

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**060458 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **December 9, 2002** at **10:00 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch, and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Diana Dawson, Recording Clerk attended.

**10:00 a.m. - Board Business.**

**D060458A 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.**

Present: Bret Bosse, Dean Ferguson and Don Anderson

**D060458B 2. Motion** by Commissioner Finch to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

**060459 3.** Claims/Payroll warrants numbered 143401 - 143479 for **\$283,021.82** approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	\$13,315.05
102	Building & Development	151.85
103	Countywide Planning	189.13
104	Developmental Services	427.45
110	County Roads	31,255.20
112	Public Facilities Improvement	3,400.17
123	Paths & Trails	186.46
135	Prosecutor's Stop Grant	8.62
400	Solid Waste	82,155.02
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	150,629.46
510	Photocopier Revolving	1,303.41
E	Electronic Transfer	387,957.48

**060460 4.** December 2, 2002 minutes approved.

**060461-060464 5.** Personnel board orders approved.

**060465 6. Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to publish the 2002 budget amendment #3 notice.

**060466 7. Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried** to reappoint Roger Whitten to a 4-year term on the Whitman County Planning Commission. Commissioner Finch voted nay.

**060467 8. Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to extend annual leave hours in excess of 216 for Don Anderson for 90 days.

**060468** 9. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to extend annual leave hours in excess of 216 for Fran Martin until June 1, 2003.

**060469** 10. Letter received from LaCrosse Mayor Donald Dorman regarding possible annexation of real property to the town of LaCrosse.

**10:15 a.m. - Kelli Campbell.**

**D060469A** 11. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to go into Executive Session with the above individuals for discussion of Undersheriff position returning to sergeant status in the classification system.

**10:25 a.m. Return to open session.**

Present: Don Anderson, Kelli Campbell, and Dean Ferguson.

**060470** **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to place the sergeant position at Grade 14 Step E.

**060470A** 12. A letter was received from the League of Women Voters of Pullman opposing the removal of the three-year waiting period before agricultural land can be sold for housing.

**10:30 a.m. - 2003 Preliminary Whitman County Budget.**

Present: Jim Lyman, Jane Lyman, Janet Schmidt, Chad Slants, Randy Baldree, Tim Myers, Kelli Campbell, Joe Reynolds, Bev Welch, Robin Cocking, Brett Bosse, Mark Clinton, Fran Martin, Jim Lyman, John Peterson, Hillary Hamm.

**060471** Hearing reconvened by Chairman Partch.

Commissioner Partch shared that some of the department budgets were partially restored due to \$51,000 that the Assessor had for new adjusted evaluations. As well as an Avista check for \$17,973 for a rebate on our lighting project.

**060472** Letter from Jason Monson in support of Cooperative Extension.

**060473** Letter from Richard Appel in support of Cooperative Extension.

**060474** Letter from Henry Vogler in support of Cooperative Extension.

**060474A** Letter from Dick and Nancy Mack in support of Parks, Fair, and Facilities Management Departments.

John Peterson gave the Staff report.

Chad Startin, Fair Board member, expressed his support of the Cooperative Extension and Palouse Empire Fair and spoke to the rate increase for fair admission and how it affects the overall Fair budget.

Randy Baldree thanked the Board of County Commissioners and the public for their support of and confidence in the Cooperative Extension.

Jane Lyman, President of the 4H Counsel, appreciated that some of the budget was restored to the fair. She is afraid the cuts will eventually affect the looks of our parks and fairgrounds and we may end up losing revenue because people will not want to rent the facilities.

Fran Martin pointed out that even though it didn't appear the Health Department budget was cut, her department was reduced. She is losing two positions in 2003 due to budget reductions.

Commissioner Finch added that the budget reductions were not personal. These decisions are what the taxpayer demanded when we were elected the Board to do. No one likes making cuts. The money just isn't there. He encouraged the audience that if they had a better way to do this to step forward.

Commissioner Wigen thanked those who attended and gave their input as well as the EAT Committee members who all worked hard as a team. His hope is that this will bring out more volunteers. This is happening all over the state not just here.

John Peterson pointed at that the Health Department would be adding the additional duties of emergency management.

Commissioner Partch stated that he was worried about 03-04 but 04 in particular. We may have to use additional reserve. He also noted that all regular full time positions were preserved in the Parks/Fair department.

Hearing adjourned.

The Board will render their decision on the 2003 Whitman County budget at 10:30 a.m. on December 16.

**11:10 a.m. - Dane Dunford, Public Works Director.**

Present: Mark Storey, Phil Meyer, Julie Fox and Dean Ferguson

**Action Items:**

**060475** 1. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to adopt the Annual Construction Program for 2003.

**060476** 2. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to execute the Resolution to initiate a county road project to Palouse Cove Road for realignment, grading and surfacing be signed as presented.

**060477** 3. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to execute the Local Agency Agreement for the Palouse Cove Road Safety and Reconstruction Project.

**060478** 4. Motion by **Commissioner Finch** seconded by Commissioner **Wigen** and carried to sign the Local Agency Federal Aid Project Prospectus.

**Solid Waste Division:**

**060479** 5. Julie Fox gave a report about the Christmas Tree Recycling program sponsored by the Boy Scouts in Pullman as well as the free service provided by the County landfill each year.

**Maintenance Division:**

**060480** 6. The County Arterial preservation Program for 2003 was presented.

**D060480A** 7. Mr. Dunford reported on the annual snow and ice removal letter. The letter explains the operations priority for plowing snow, (1) paved roads, (2) school routes then (3) all other roads as able. Plowing does not begin until 6 inches or more of snow is on the roadway. Due to budget reductions, weekend snow removal will be limited. It costs approximately \$20,000 a day for labor, equipment and fuel on weekends. One option available to reduce costs is to reduce crews and plow main arterial roads only. The snow plowing will be monitored closely.

**11:30 a.m. - Rick Davis, Account Executive and Mike Thomason, Construction Area Manager for Avista Utilities.**

Present: Tom Miller, John Peterson, and Tim Myers

**060481** Mr. Davis explained that the \$17,973.00 check they were presenting to the county represents the incentive offered to the county for the light project. There will be an estimated cost savings of 220,000 annual kilowatt-hours for the four buildings that had new lighting installed.

Tim Myers thanked Avista for their assistance in this project. It would not have gone as smoothly as it did without their help.

**12:00 p.m. - Recess.**

**1:35 p.m. - Judy Allen, Community Action Center.**

**060482** Motion by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to sign the CDBG-PS grant application for 2003.

**1:50 p.m. - Recess.**

**3:00 p.m. - Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.**

Present: Jean Wardwell, Mark Storey, Roger Whitten, and Bob Scholz (3:00 p.m.).

**D060482A** 13. Discussion was held on a proposal by the Planning Commission to seek legislation allowing for a more flexible plan for new water use in cluster developments.

**060483** 14. Items discussed included Classification System scenarios, lobbyist contract, Legislative Steering Committee meeting, RSN meeting, holidays, and appointments/reappointments. No action taken.

**5:00 p.m. - Adjournment.**

**D060483A** Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **December 9, 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 **December 16, 2002**. The foregoing action made this **9th** day of **December 2002**.

ss/ JERRY FINCH, Commissioner

ss/ LES WIGEN, Commissioner

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DIANA DAWSON  
Recording Clerk

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GREG PARTCH, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners