

Minutes for December 24th & 31st, 2001

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059029 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **December 24, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Kaye Engel, Recording Clerk attended.

D059029A 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.

10:00 a.m. - Board Business.

Present: Jennifer Snead, Dick Brown and Kelli Shrope.

D059029B 2. Motion by Commissioner Finch to approve the Consent Agenda with the deletion of item "2". **Seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

0590303. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **129918-129955** and **130177-130331** for **\$394,177.87** approved.

001	Current Expense	\$ 8,984.78	\$ 32,530.07	\$ 61,778.25
102	Building & Development	1,200.00		88.21
103	Countywide Planning	1,800.00		142.43
104	Developmental Services			32,093.31
105	Mental Health	863.60	5,219.60	2,062.89
107	Chemical Dependency		2,236.00	
110	County Roads	5,297.20	14,032.40	2,590.32
123	Paths & Trails			569.73
126	Treasurer's M&O			864.88
127	Drug Enforcement			9,059.42
128	Crime Victims/Witnesses			2.95
139	"911" Emergency Service			57,296.19
300	Capital Projects			2,714.27
400	Solid Waste	866.00	1,750.00	72,956.60
501	Equipment Rental & Revolv.	1,997.20	2,656.00	66,223.19
510	Photocopier Revolving			755.33
513	Communications Revolving			1,627.20
658	Rural Library		501.96	
690	Clearing & Suspense			3,417.89

059031-059039 4. Personnel board orders approved.

0590405. Motion by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to adopt a resolution setting 2002 taxes.

RESOLUTION NO. 059040

In the Matter of Setting the 2002 Taxes for Whitman County.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Whitman County, State of Washington, met on Mondays, December 3, and 10, 2001, and held the budget hearing for the Budget for fiscal year 2002, for the County

Current Expense Fund, Special Revenue Funds, annually appropriated Capital Projects Funds, Enterprise Funds, Debt Service Funds, and Internal Service Funds and,

WHEREAS, any and all taxpayers appearing at the hearing to be heard for or against any part of the budget have been given the opportunity to be heard; and

WHEREAS, there is substantial increases in anticipated criminal justice costs due to new state mandates in the Juvenile and adult criminal justice area, and

WHEREAS, there is substantial loss of Criminal Justice Funding from the state of Washington because of the passage of Initiative 695, and

WHEREAS, Whitman County ranks 5th in the State of Washington with 1927 miles of County Roads with continued need of construction, maintenance and repair, and

WHEREAS, even with the Current Expense Fund Preliminary Budget revenue estimates including property tax at less than 1% above the 2001 level the expenses estimates exceeded the revenue in excess of \$873,988, and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners reduced the Current Expense Fund Preliminary Budget requests by approximately \$415,000, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Whitman County that an increase in the regular property tax levy, in addition to any amount resulting from the addition of new construction and improvements to property and any increase in the value of state-assessed property, is hereby authorized for the 2002 levy in the amount of \$3,244,859, which is a percentage increase of **0.00%** (percent) from the previous year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Whitman County that an increase in the regular property tax levy, in addition to any amount resulting from the addition of new construction and improvements to property and any increase in the value of state-assessed property, is hereby authorized or the 2002 levy FOR THE COUNTY ROAD FUND in the amount of \$1,705,524 which is a percentage increase of **0.00%** percent from the previous year.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of December 2001.

059041 **6.** The Board considered a resolution establishing a fund for the unfunded state mandated ergonomics program. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch to sign a resolution establishing an Ergonomics Fund. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen who voiced his dissatisfaction with another unfunded state mandate. The other members concurred. Motion **carried**.

RESOLUTION NO. 059041

OF

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR WHITMAN COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Whitman County, State of Washington, met in regular session on December 24, 2001; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Whitman County, State of Washington recognize the need to comply with state mandated ergonomics; and,

WHEREAS the Board of County Commissioners believe that a separate dedicated fund be set up to account for expenditures related to this new unfunded mandate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS ORDERED that a new fund number 113.012.000 named the Ergonomics Fund is hereby created to properly account for the funding of costs associated with compliance of Washington State ergonomics rule.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of December 2001.

10:20 a.m. - Chad Connors.

7. After explanation by Chad Connors, the following Juvenile grant application data forms were approved by the Board. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried**.

059042 ICA-ODCASA		\$10,000
059043 DSHS-Juvenile Justice	\$ 7,500	
059044 DSHS-JAIBG	\$11,111	
059045 DSHS/JRA-BECCA	\$39,936	
059046 DSHS/JRA-Impact Funds	\$24,980	
059047 DSHS-JRA-School Violence	\$ 132	
059048 DSHS/JRA-CDDA	\$20,675	
059049 DSHS/JRA-SSODA	\$17,980	
059050 DSHS/JRA/CJS-At Risk	\$77,745	
059051 DSHS/JRA-CJAA	\$47,948	

0590528. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** for the Chairman to sign the professional services agreement with Terry Peterson, MSW for state required juvenile sex offender evaluation services.

D059052A 9. Mr. Connors asked the Board to consider allowing him to sign future vendor contracts. If authorized, Mr. Connors would notify the Board each time a contract was signed. The commissioners voiced no objections. The Chairman requested Mr. Connors obtain a letter from Ron Shirley, Deputy Prosecutor, giving his opinion about this request.

D059052B 10. A Law & Justice update provided by Mr. Connors. Issues included: membership, meeting dates, priority survey feedback, medical for inmates, juvenile justice, substitute issues, partnership, imposition of detention fees, indigent defense and racial disparity.

05905311. A letter was sent to the County Auditor regarding his claim #104524 and the lack of funding (\$30) in the election line item for post office box rent.

05905412. A letter sent to the County Auditor regarding his claim #104591 and the lack of funding (\$989.34) in the election line item for computer chip/supplies.

Commissioner Wigen said when the new election system was purchased the Auditor was going to learn how to program the chips to save this expense for each election.

05905513. A letter received from the County Auditor and the Board's response to the Auditor's request for another full time position noted.

Commissioner Finch said the boss must be cross-trained to fill in when employees are unable to work. Other departments have offered their employees to help the workload in the Auditor's office. The Auditor has chosen not

to accept these offers. He emphasized that the reason the staff was reduced in the Auditor's office is because their jobs ended. It is time for the Auditor to learn how to do the job. He reiterated part of a manager's job is to step in when employees are gone. Other department heads and elected officials do it all the time in this county.

Commissioner Wigen agreed with Commissioner Finch adding that after 3 years, the Auditor should be able to do the job in all divisions like he said he was going to do.

05905614. The 2002 updated Growth Management Act population projections were received from the Office of Financial Management.

D059056A 15. The 2002 Classification decision was before the Board.

Kelli Shrope said earlier this month, the Classification Committee presented options as to what the Board could do on the Classification System for 2002.

1. 2% salary schedule shift for all non-represented and bargaining unit employees. A 2% shift is included in the bargaining unit contracts.
2. 2% salary schedule shift for bargaining unit employees and a 2.5% salary schedule shift for non-represented employees.
3. 2% salary schedule shift for all employees and a family grade adjustment for non-represented employees who are below the 87% mark only.
4. 2% salary schedule shift for bargaining unit employees and a 2.5% salary schedule shift for non-represented employees as well as a grade movement for those below 87%.
5. 2% salary schedule shift for all employees and a family grade adjustment for all non-represented employees. This would bring those below 87% up to 87% and those currently above 87% would be frozen.
6. 2% salary schedule shift for bargaining unit employees and a 2.5% salary schedule shift for non-represented employees as well as the family grade adjustment up to 87% and those above 87% would be frozen.

Chairman Partch said the Board and Classification Committee members have met in a workshop several times. He felt it is important the Board does not balance the budget on the backs of the non-represented employees because of the mandatory bargaining unit obligations. Therefore, he would like to see the same amount (2%) distributed to the non-represented employees.

Commissioner Wigen was not in favor of going any higher than 2% due to the county's current financial situation and trying to maintain equality among the employees.

Commissioner Finch wished the county could fix the whole system, but the reality is the county does not have the money. He felt the fairest option is 2% across the board for all employees.

Commissioner Partch acknowledged the problem with the alignments. Some classifications were at a much higher pay rate and they continue to increase. The lower paid employees will never be able to catch up until the system is realigned. As Commissioner Finch commented, there is not enough money to do that. Therefore, he concurred with the other members.

Commissioner Finch **moved** to set the bargaining unit represented and non-represented employees wages at the same level 2% for 2002. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

10:55 a.m. - Sherry Partch.

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

Present: Dave Storey and Phil Meyer.

Action Items:

0590571. Motion by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to adopt the annual construction program for 2002.

Engineering Division:

0590582. A copy of the annual certification for 2001 County Arterial Preservation Program (CAAP) Pavement Management System was received from the County Engineer.

Planning Division:

D059058A 3. The Board of Adjustment will conduct public hearings for two requests on January 3rd; a setback and a conditional use permit.

D059058B 4. Chairman Partch confirmed that the rumor surrounding the anemometers/windmills that the Department of Fish & Wildlife will be charging up to \$70/unit for mitigation is not true. According to the Planner, he obtained copies of the pertinent documents from Walla Walla and Benton County (counties with windmills) and that language is not included in any of the documents.

According to Bill Nelson Commissioner Wigen said that language is included in his contract with the Department of Fish & Wildlife. Commissioner Wigen has asked Mr. Nelson for a copy of the document.

11:30 a.m. - Recess.

059059 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **December 31, 2001 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. - Reconvene/Pledge of Allegiance/Board Business Continued.

059059A 16. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered **130365** for **\$3,656.61** approved.

110 County Roads	\$3,656.61
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05906017. Motion by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to delete item #2 from Board Business and to approve the December 17, 2001 minutes.

05906 1 18. Motion by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to authorize publishing of a notice to vendors and contractors for inclusion on the county's small works rosters.

059062 19. The following county employees have not completed 2001 blood borne pathogen training and are now in non-compliance with state regulations: Doug Robinson, Marlynn Markley, Vincent Waltz, Hubert Hoagaboam, David Frazier, Aaron Denham, Phyllis Leland and Christine Mikalson.

20. Pursuant to County Code regarding delegation of purchase orders, claims and payroll responsibilities, an authorization from was received from the following departments, signed by the Board and forwarded to the Auditor's office.

059063	Administrative Services
059064	Assessor

059065 Auditor
059066 Commissioners
059067 Cooperative Extension
059068 Clerk
059069 Coroner
059070 Counseling Services
059071 Developmental Services
059072 District Court
059073 Human Resources
059074 Information Services
059075 Health Department
059076 Juvenile Court
059077 Parks, Fair, Facilities Management
059078 Prosecutor
059079 Public Works
059080 Sheriff
059081 Superior Court
059082 Treasurer
059083 Weed Department

21. Executed copies of the following contracts received:

059084 DSHS #0163-03803 for Juvenile Rehabilitation-\$ 25,122; and,
059085 DSHS #0163-04945 for Juvenile Rehabilitation-\$164,348.

10:10 a.m. - Jennifer Snead.

D059085A 22. Commissioners' pending items reviewed.

10:20 a.m. - Dane Dunford, Public Works Director.

Present: Mark Storey and Jennifer Snead.

Action Items:

0590861. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** that the contract with Inland Merchants Association, Inc. be signed as presented.

0590872. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** that the local agency agreement supplement for Warner Bridge be signed as presented.

0590883. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** that the local agency agreement supplement for the Fitzgerald Bridge be signed as presented.

Maintenance Division:

0590894. Information pertaining to the award of 2002 grader blades through the small works roster process was received from the Director.

D059089A 5. According to Mr. Dunford, the maintenance crews are currently snowplowing and/or ditching depending on weather.

D059089B 6. Mr. Dunford pointed out that a fair amount of frost is accumulating in the roads and as a result, the roads will undoubtedly be placed on load limit restrictions when necessary.

Engineering Division:

D059089C 7. The department is preparing to call for bids for bridge projects in February and are also gearing up for next summer's projects.

D059089D 8. The County Road Administration Board visited with staff on the 26th and did not bring any good news for the future.

Administrative Division:

D059089E 9. Mr. Dunford was asked to attend the January 7th meeting with representatives from the Risk Pool.

D059089F 10. A general discussion about 2002-2003 Public Works budget was held.

Solid Waste:

05909011. Upon conclusion of discussion, a **motion** was made by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to appoint Molly Meyers, WSU Environmental Science Club member to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

10:45 a.m. - Adjournment.

D059090A Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **December 24 and 31, 2001** 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 **January 7, 2002**. The foregoing action made this **31st** day of **December 2001**.

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

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners