

# WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

September 18, 2023

087093 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in the Commissioner Chambers at the Whitman County Courthouse, 400 N Main St., Colfax, Washington on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Michael Largent Chairman, Arthur D Swannack and Tom Handy, Commissioners and Corey Mitzimberg, Clerk of the Board attended.

## 9:00 AM – Called to Order-Workshop

### Attendance:

- Remotely – Remote participation was not available due to an internet outage
- In Person – Bill Tensfeld, Chris Skidmore, Craig Wines, Heather Clark, Jessica Jensema, Kelli Campbell, Mark Storey and Sandy Jamison

087094 1. The following items were discussed with no action taken:

- Internet outage
- WCRG Emergency meeting-Grant County
- Colfax Council on Aging Nutrition Mobile
- Chipman Trail Bridge
- Building Code Committee/2021 Implementation
- Audio Visual Chambers Support
- Resolution of Bill Chipman Bridge project
- Chambers Bridge safety issues
- 2024 Employee Health Insurance
- Health Alert-Blue Green Algal Toxins/Snake River
- COVID and Influenza A update
- Community Health Educator position

## 9:50 AM- Recessed

## 10:15 AM – Reconvened- Board Business

### Attendance:

- Remotely – Remote participation was not available due to an internet outage
- In Person – Mark Storey

- New/Old Business

D087094 2. Pledge Allegiance was recited

3. There was no public comment

087095 4. Consent Agenda items approved.

- 087095 Treasures Wire Transfers & Check Report \$ 199,098.39
- 087095 Voucher Claims - #369912 - 369234 \$ 878,764.47
- 087096 September 05, 2023 Minutes
- None Personal Change Orders Approved

087097 5. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the updated Signature Delegation form for the Human Resources and Commissioner Departments.

087098 6. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to ratify Commissioner Swannack's signature on the contract with the WA. Department of Veteran Affairs accepting Amendment No. 1 to remove the COVID-19 Vaccination requirement.

087099 6a. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to ratify Commissioner Largent's signature on an application for a grant with the Local Parks Maintenance Program.

087100 7. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve publishing the Notice to call for bids for the manufacturing and stockpiling of aggregate to be used for maintenance at the Colfax Stockpile Site to be opened on October 16, 2023 in the Commissioners Chambers of the Whitman County Courthouse at 10:45 a.m.

087101 8. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve publishing the Notice to call for bids for the manufacturing and stockpiling of aggregate to be used for maintenance activities at the Gnaedinger Stockpile Site to be opened on October 16, 2023 in the Commissioners Chambers of the Whitman County Courthouse at 10:55 a.m.

087102 9. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the Resolution of intent to vacate all of the Vernon and Cozier Road also known as the Vernon Crozier Road located on the West ½ of Section 26, the East ½ of Section 34 and the West ½ Section of 35, Township 20 North and Range 44 East.

087103 10. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve publishing the Notice of Public Hearing on Vacating and Abandoning all of the Vernon and Cozier Road also known as the Vernon Crozier Road To be held October 16, 2023 in the Commissioners Chambers of the Whitman County Courthouse at 10:30 a.m.

087104 11. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the Resolution of intent to vacate and abandon all of the Poe Road County Road No. 5350 In section 5 and section 6 Township 15 North and Range 46 East.

087105 12. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve Publishing the Notice of Public Hearing on vacating and abandoning all of the Poe Road to be held October 16, 2023 in the Commissioners Chambers of the Whitman County Courthouse at 10:35 a.m.

087106 13. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the Resolution of intent to vacate and abandon all of the Old Barn Road County Road No. 4230, all of the Vaughn Road and the Vaughn Bridge, No. 5230-00.05 in the Northwest ¼ of section 25 and the northeast ¼ of section 26, Township 16 North, Range 45 East.

087107 14. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve Publishing the Notice of Public Hearing on vacating and abandoning all of the Old Barn Road No. 4230, all of the Vaughn Road and the Vaughn Bridge No. 5230-00.05 to be held October 16, 2023 in the Commissioners Chambers of the Whitman County Courthouse at 10:40 a.m.

087108 15. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve and Sign the Doneen Quarry and Stockpile Site Lease between the John Doneen Farms, Inc. and Whitman County Public Works.

087109 16. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the Resolution declaring a state of emergency regarding the Bill Chipman Trail as a result of the August 19<sup>th</sup> fire that destroyed a bridge.

087110 17. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the Resolution establishing a project to replace the damaged Bill Chipman Trail Bridge.

087111 18. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve signing the letter of appreciation to Nicholls Kovich engineering for their timely response in evaluating the damaged trail bridge to be returned to pedestrian use.

D087111 19. Public Works Division Updates were provided by Public Works County Director Mark Storey and .County Planner Alan Thomson.

- **Planning**

Mr. Thomson advised the there is a statewide push to create solar energy facilities and the County does not have an ordinance to address this. Many Washington counties are against solar energy facilities however conversations have been going on with the State Planning Directors. Some reasons counties are against the facilities is because of the amount of acreage/farmland potentially being used for this. Mr. Thomson has heard there is the potential request for 500 acres, west of Thornton and south of Malden, the proximity to towns is an additional concern.

Commissioner Handy shared property owners would most likely lease property on less productive hilltops. The solar structures are said to be approximately 6 feet tall (from the ground), will tilt and move. Commissioner Largent questioned and doubted if the structures can be set on CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) land. County Planner, Alan Thomson said wind farms are often on farmland to avoid issues with CRP through a Conditional Use permit. Commissioner Swannack also shared there needs to be considerations of fire department access, hazmat issues as well as site disturbances, such a rain, storm water, etc. Mr. Thomson will be taking this discussion to the Planning Commission as well as discussing the need for an ordinance.

- **Engineering:**

Mr. Storey shared posts for guardrails are started today, it may not be done this week but progress is being made also, reflectors will be added for safety.

087112 20. There was no correspondence received.

087113 21. Pending List was reviewed

D087113 22. Approved Documents Signed

087114 23. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to go into executive session at 11:00 AM until 12:00 PM for matters related to negotiations.

**Attendance:**

- **In Person** – Kelli Campbell, Jessica Jensema and Mark Storey

**12:00 PM – Return to Open Session/Recessed**

**1:00 PM – Reconvened – Workshop**

County Commissioner to Port of Whitman Commissioner Joint meeting

Attendance:

- In Person – Karl Weber, Port Commissioner, Tom Kammerzell, Port Commissioner, Kara Riebold, Port Executive Director, Ben Moehrl of Agrow Solutions
- Remote – Kristine Meyer, Port Commissioner and Teresa Simpson, Whitman County Gazette

087115 24. The following items were discussed with no action taken:

- .09 Funds Model-Project presentations, Project flows
- Wilma Road
- CERB Applications-Hunga Bunga & Agrow Solutions
- Washington-Idaho-Montana Railway

Greater Columbia Health Briefing

Attendance:

- Remote – Mike Berney, Greater Columbia Health

087116 25. Mike Berney shared the following from Executive Committee (Board) meetings held on June 1, July 6, August 3 and September 7, 2023

Briefing to review the regular Executive Committee (Board) meetings held on June 1 and July 6, 2023, of the Greater Columbia Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization.

- 1) Fiscal and Administrative Updates
- 2) May warrants and vouchers approved
- 3) June, the end of the State fiscal year will close later at a later date
- 4) Chair was authorized to sign fiscal year 2024 contracts with the Health Care Authority, GCBH and providers, which includes professional services agreements for IT support was requested.
- 5) State updates:
- 6) The last Legislative session allocated new funding to expand the Assisted Outpatient Program. So far, the Superior Courts have been approached as part of this program have not been interested.
- 7) ASO Updates
- 8) No compliance/complaint issues to report.
- 9) Staff presented required plans to the appropriate committees in turn those committees requested approval by the Executive Committee.
  - a. The plans include:
    - Mental Health Block Grant
    - Substance Abuse Block Grant
    - 6032 Enhancement Funds (for recruitment and retention of staff)
- 10) Outcome: Whitman County voted in favor of allowing the plans to be submitted to the State. The vote was unanimous.
- 11) The June and July meetings had no public comments

Briefing to review the regular Executive Committee (Board) meetings held on August 3 and September 7, 2023, of the Greater Columbia Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization

- 1) Fiscal and Administrative Updates
- 2) June, July, and August warrants and vouchers were approved
- 3) June books were closed in July due to end of the State fiscal year
- 4) GCBH released additional funding to the provider network at the end of the State fiscal year
- 5) Chair was authorized to sign a January 2024 amendment with Amerigroup a Managed Care Organization
- 6) The HCA audit of GCBH went very well
- 7) State updates:
- 8) The last Legislative session allocated new funding to expand new crisis teams. This is a very early state-wide discussion and there is a shortage of crisis workers already.
- 9) ASO Updates
- 10) No compliance/complaint issues to report
- 11) Whitman County voted unanimously to add a position at GCBH for the Youth Navigator Program. The position is fully funded by the State.
- 12) The August and Septembers had no public comments

**3:00 PM – Recessed to Tuesday, September, 19, 2023**

**Tuesday, September, 19, 2023**

**9:00 AM – Reconvened – Workshop**

Attendance:

- In Person – Jessica Jensema,
  - Sheri Aune 9:00 – 9:30 AM
  - Lorena Lynch 9:30 – 10:00 AM
  - Judge Libey 9:30 – 10:00 AM
  - Sandy Jamison 10:00 – 10:30 AM
  - Chris Nelson 10:45 - 11:15 AM

087117-087120 26 - 29. The following items were discussed with no action taken:

- Juvenile Department Budget Review
- Superior Court Budget Review
- Auditor Budget Review
- Treasurer Budget Review

**11:15 AM** - Commissioner Largent, Chair called for an emergency Executive Session to discuss RCW 42.30.110 (a)(ii), Infrastructure and security of agency computer and telecommunications network.

087120a 29A. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to go into executive session until 12:00 PM for matters related to RCW 42.30.110 (a)(ii), Infrastructure and security of agency computer and telecommunications network.

Attendance:

- In Person – Prosecutor Denis Tracey, Corey Mitzimberg, Craig Wines, Joshua Vincent, and Jessica Jensema

**12:00 PM – Return to Open Session - Recessed.**

**1:00 PM – Reconvened - Workshop**

Attendance:

- In Person – Jessica Jensema,
  - Chris Skidmore 9:00 – 9:30 AM
  - Noel Christiansen 9:30 – 10:00 AM
  - Corey Mitzimberg 10:00 – 10:30 AM

087121-087123 30-33. The following items were discussed with no action taken:

- Health Department Budget Review
- Human Resources Budget Review – Rescheduled to a later date
- Commissioners Budget Review
- Admin/Finance Department Budget Review

**4:00 PM – Recessed to Monday, September 25, 2023**

**Monday, September 25, 2023**

**THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** reconvened in the Commissioner’s Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., Michael Largent Chairman, Arthur D Swannack, Commissioner, Tom Handy, Commissioner and Corey Mitzimberg, Clerk of the Board attended

**9:00 AM – Reconvened-Board Business and Workshop**

Attendance:

Remotely: Crystn Guenther, Sarah Hardy, Jill Whelchel, Wraylee Flodin. Heather Clark, E, Jacy Leach, Keaton Wheeler, Jessica Jensema, Scott Watson, Katie Jensema, Brenda Arthur, Craig Wines, Kristina Cooper, SM and E

In Person: Janel Goebel, Mark Storey, Kelli Campbell, David Nails, Jimmy Bennett, Jeff Stehr, Lori Nails, Jodi Lanus, Heather Lantz and Teresa Simpson-Whitman County Gazette

Consent Agenda:

D087123 34. Approved Consent agenda items signed.

087124 - 087130 The following was approved.

- a. Treasures Wire Transfers & Check Report \$ 406,999.49
- Voucher Claims - #369252-369330 \$ 598,933.21
- b. Personal Change Orders Approved

Workshop

087131 35. The following items were discussed with no action taken.

- LATCF (Local Assistance & Tribal Consistency Fund) Special Assessment to support
- WSAC (WA State Association of Counties) membership, King County
- Winona Trestle Update
- Pullman property letter of interest modification
- Chipman Trail Bridge update
- Clerk Intern position
- 2024 Health Insurance Update

**10:30 AM – Recessed**

**11:00 AM – Return to Open Session – Executive Session**

087132 36. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to go into executive session until 12:00 PM for matters related to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) Performance of an Employee/ Evaluation

Attendance:

- In Person – Jessica Jensema

D087132 37. Executive Session from 1:00 – 5:00 PM to be rescheduled

**12:00 PM – Return to Open Session – Recessed to Wednesday, September 27, 2023**

**Wednesday, September 27, 2023**

**9:00 AM Reconvened – Workshop**

Attendance:

- In Person – Jessica Jensema,
  - Bill Tensfeld 9:00 - 12:00 PM
  - Janel Goebel
  - Matthew Floyd
  - Ashley Reisenauer

087133 38. The following items were discussed with no action taken:

- Fair, Emergency Management, Developmental Services and Parks & Recreation Departments Budget Review

087134 39. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to go into executive session until 12:00 PM for matters related to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) Performance of an Employee/ Evaluation.

**12:00 PM – Return to Open Session – Recessed**

**1:00 PM – Reconvened – Workshop – Executive Session**

087135 40. The Sheriff Department Budget Review has been rescheduled to a later date due to a scheduling conflict for Sheriff, Brett Myers.

Attendance:

- *In Person* –
  - Craig Wines 1:00 – 2:00 PM

087136 41. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to go into executive session until 2:00 PM for matters related to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) Performance of an Employee/ Evaluation.

**2:00 PM Return to Open Session – Recess**

**3:00 PM – Reconvened – Workshop – Executive Session**

Attendance:

- *In Person* –
  - Becki Buri 3:00 – 4:00 PM

D087136 41A. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to go into executive session until 4:00 PM for matters related to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) Performance of an Employee/ Evaluation.

**4:00 PM Return to Open Session – Adjourned to Monday, October 2, 2023**

D087088 Commissioner Swannack **moved** to adjourn the September 18<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Handy and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in the Commissioner’s Chambers of the Whitman County commissioners Chambers, Colfax, Washington, on October 2, 2023.

The foregoing action made this 27th day of September 2023.

ss/ ARTHUR D SWANNACK, COMMISSIONER

ss/ TOM HANDY, COMMISSIONER

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Corey Mitzimberg  
Clerk of the Board

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Michael Largent, CHAIRMAN  
Board of County Commissioners