

**WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
October 16, 2023**

087138 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in the Commissioner Chambers at the Whitman County Courthouse, 400 N Main St., Colfax, Washington on Monday, October 16, 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 – Brian Wilson, Craig Wines, Chris Nelson, Crystn Guenthner, Sawn Pitts, Heather Clark, Jacy Leach, Katie Jensema, Kristina Cooper, Sandy Jamison, Sarah Hardy, Wraylee Flodin and Citizen via I-phone

In Person – Bill Tensfeld, Dean Cornelison, Jeff Stehr, Jessica Jensema, Kelli Campbell, Sandy Jamison, and Mark Storey

087184 1. The following items were discussed with no action taken:

- LSC Tour
- Wynona Trestle
- WA SBCC (State Building Code Council)
 - Daycare Changes
 - Energy Code
- Upcoming Road Vacations
- '24 Employee Health Insurance
- Admin/Finance Dept.-Retro Reclassifications
- Union Contracts
- Wildland Interface
- Union Agreement

9:30 AM - Recessed

10:20 AM – Reconvened- Board Business

Attendance:

Remotely – Heather Clark and Kristina Cooper

In Person – Jessica Jensema, Dean Cornelison, Sandy Jamison, Mark Storey and Teresa Simpson-Whitman County Gazette

New/Old Business

D087184 2. Pledge Allegiance was recited

D087184a 3. There was no public comment

087185-186 4. Consent Agenda items approved.

- 087185 Treasures Wire Transfers & Check Report \$ 156,126.53
- 087185 Voucher Claims - #369571-369656 & \$ 694,171.11
#369658-369720
- 087185 October 02, 2023 Minutes
- 087186 Personal Change Orders Approved

D087185a 4A. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to amend the agenda adding item 12A, reconvene of the 2024 Budget Hearing at 10:30 AM and item 12B, revising the bid opening date for the Countywide Guardrail to October 30, 2023 at 10:30 AM.

087187 5. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve Non-Represented employees to receive 2024 Healthcare Premiums to be 100% paid by the County and receive a 3% cost of living adjustment effective January 1, 2024.

087190 6. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to sign the board order authorizing, effective January 1, 2024, the County to make a medical premium contribution to temporary employees working an average of 130 hours a month or more equal to employee Inland Empire Teamsters Trust premium, plus the cost of the WCIF Life Insurance. Contribution will not be provided for other health insurance coverage.

087191 7. Budget Amendment #2 information was presented by Finance Director, Jessica Jensema.

- Revenue exceeded expenses by \$1,525,403.00 – No transfer is required from reserve
- General Government has an increase expense of \$190,000.00
 - Due to: Bill Chipman Bridge replacement \$40,000 replacement and anticipated increases in risk insurance\$150,000
- Administrative-Finance Office had a zero net effect,
- The following departments have an increase or decrease in both revenue(REV) and expenses(EXP)

• Superior Court	REV. increase \$40,782	EXP increase \$60,522
• District Court	REV increase \$174,818	EXP increase \$174,818
• Probation Dept.	REV. decrease \$92,000	EXP decrease \$233,000
• Clerk’s Office	REV. decrease \$7,621	EXP decrease \$33,899
• Coroner	REV. increase \$12,590	EXP increase \$28,725
• Emergency Mgmt.	REV. increase \$75,000	EXP increase \$75,000
• Public Health Dept.	REV. increase \$449,500	EXP increase \$450,500
• District Court	REV increase \$174,818	EXP increase \$174,818
- The following departments have an increase revenue
 - Treasures Office REV. increase \$1,825,000
- The following departments have an increase in expenses
 - Facilities EXP. Increase \$30,000
 - IT EXP increase \$200,000
 - Parks Department EXP increase \$10,000
- Outside current expense has a total adjustment of \$215,018.00
 - Clerk’s Office for Domestic Violence Services(116)
 - REV increase \$200 EXP increase \$200
 - Parks Department for Bill Chipman Trail Bridge
 - REV increase \$40,000 EXP increase \$40,000
 - District Court for Audio Visual upgrades
 - REV increase \$174,818 EXP increase \$174,818

Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the 2024 Budget Amendment 2 as presented.

087192 8. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to ratify Commissioner Largent’s signature to approve the reconvene the 2023 Board of Equalization.

087193 9. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the Local Voters Pamphlet Participation Waivers for the following entities;

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Town of Farmington | • Garfield Park & Recreation |
| • Town of Malden | • Oaksdale Park & Recreation #4 |
| • Town of Oaksdale | • St. John Park & Recreation #3 |
| • Cemetery District No. 2-Garfield | • Pullman Regional Hospital |
| • Cemetery District No. 1 – Oaksdale | • Public Health District #2 |
| • Fire Protection District 3 | • Lamont School District |

- Steptoe School District #304
- Colton School District #306
- Oakesdale School District #324
- Rosalia School District
- Tekoa School District

D087193a 10. The signing of the Road Bargaining, Solid Waste Bargaining and Correction Officers and Support Staff cancelled and will be rescheduled at a future date as the agreements have not received final review from the Union. Human Resources Director, Kelli Campbell shared this in workshop.

087194 11. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to reappoint Colfax Police Department Chief Bruce Blood to the Emergency Communications Advisory Board for an additional three year term, expiring June 30, 2026, representing the Rural Police/Marshals.

087195 12. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to adopt the Interlocal Agreement with the Palouse Conservation District.

D087195a 12A. The regular meeting was recessed and the hearing reconvened by the Chairman for the 2024 Budget Hearing.

Jessica Jensema shared, the budget documents received from the previous hearing are still accurate however due to additional conversations as well as pending Union contracts, the 2024 Budget is not ready for adoption. She anticipates the budget will be ready in the next few weeks, mid-November.

There being no further comments the hearing was adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened.

087195b 12B. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried authorize publishing Revised Guard Rail call for bids to be opened Oct 30th at 10:30am. The opening was originally scheduled for October 23.

D085196 13. The regular meeting was recessed and the hearing convened by the Chairman for the intent to vacate and abandon Vernon and Cozier Road.

Public Works Director, Mark Storey said these roads largely do not exist, this road is basically a driveway to a home in this location. The Pittman family, owners of the home support the vacation and abandonment.

There being no further comments the hearing was adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened.

087196 14. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the Resolution to vacate and abandon for Vernon & Cozier Road.

087197a 15. The regular meeting was recessed and the hearing convened by the Chairman for the intent to vacate and abandon Poe Road No. 8350.

Public Works Director, Mark Storey shared he did receive a question via telephone from a citizen who likes to walk her dogs in the area and was neither for or against the vacation. Poe Road No. 8350 (approximately 1 mile) is a dead end dirt road ending at the Idaho border where it turns to Trestle Road, which had been vacated by Idaho years ago. This will not land lock anyone.

Citizen Carl Quist shared his family owns the property in the north side of the road and have been essentially maintaining it for the last 30 years. He said it should be his family and the Mader Estatet utilize, both families support the vacation to due to traffic.

Mr. Storey confirmed liability for the road would be the responsibility of the road owners.

Joe Embay, of the Mader Estate confirmed the road could be chained off and asked how road ownership would work. Mr. Storey offered they could speak to an attorney to distinguish the be 60 foot right away, 30 feet each owner.

There being no further comments the hearing was adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened.

087197 16. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the Resolution to vacate and abandon Poe Road #5350.

087197a 17. The regular meeting was recessed and the hearing convened by the Chairman for the intent to vacate and abandon Old Barn Road No. 5230, Vaughn Road and Vaughn Bridge No. 5230-00.05.

Mark Storey said there is a homesite on this road as well as a bridge. He went on to described the proposed vacation is from Viola Road crosses the bridge and continues a half a mile or so up the hill and this part of the road has not been used for 30 years. It is a dead end, access to a couple of properties and would not cause a land lock.

Citizen, Brock Hill spoke stating he owns the property on the north side of the road, it dead ends at his property corner where the old build site was. He purchased in 1990 and plans to deed this property to his daughter where her plan is to build a home. Mr. Hill stated he disagrees with the distance shared by Mr. Storey, stating it is less than a quarter mile. He stated there is a 60 foot easement for the road. He requests the vacation is not done.

Commissioner Largent asked who would own property if vacated. The Bruins family would own the land. Commissioner Swannack requested clarification on the map of the property and the road is not maintained.

Mr. Hill said he would request the road is maintained in the future because semis are not able to access. Citizen, Al Bruins stated he owns the property, purchased 25 years ago from Getz Family. At that time a title search was done and shared the road was vacated and abandoned in October of 1954. He also stated the road does not go all the way back, it goes just over the top of the hill. The road was not removed because it would be inconvenient to farm. The road was left and the sides used for equipment storage. He owns both sides of the road and has survey pictures he can share. Since he has owned the property it has been farmed and he has never seen a semi/truckload of grain come down the road since he has owned the property. He supports the vacation.

Commissioner Largent asked if the road was vacated would Mr. Bruins allow current use? He answered he does not want traffic however if someone were to ask he would consider but the traffic would have to drive through a field, therefore he considers it impassable.

Mr. Hill disagreed with the statements made by Mr. Bruins. He said he does access his property this way and has had to move items/equipment to access the road.

Mr. Storey asked the hearing was recessed so he can confirm some additional information.

Any additional information the land owners would like to share should be sent to the Clerk of the Board, Corey Mitzimberg. If videos are shared they should be on a thumb drive.

There being no other comments the hearing was adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened.

087197 18. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to postpone the decision until October 30, 2023 at 10:45.

087198 19. Bids were opened by Commissioner Handy for the Colfax Stockpile Site, C.R.C.P No. 178.

The following bids were received:

- Seubert Excavators, PO Box 57, Cottonwood, ID - Basis of award: \$ 424,856.25
- JK Crushing, 202 Whelan Road, Pullman, WA - Basis of award: \$ 661,265.15

087199 20. Bids were opened by Commissioner Handy for the Gnaedinger Stockpile, Site C.R.C.P No. 178.

The following bids were received:

- JK Crushing, 202 Whelan Road, Pullman, WA - Basis of award: \$685,500

087200 21. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve and sign the Repp Quarry agreement with Damar Farms, Inc.

08720122. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve publishing a Notice of Dirt Road Closures as presented.

08720223. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the Resolution on the intent to vacate and abandon a portion of the S.M. McKenzie Road.

08720324. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve publishing a Notice of Intent to Vacate and Abandon a portion of the S.M. McKenzie Road.

087203a25. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve publishing a Notice Hearing on the 2014-2029 Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan as presented.

087204-087205 26. Public Works Division Updates were provided by Public Works County Director Mark Storey and County Engineer, Dean Cornelison.

- **Administration**

- A letter regarding Winter Snow and Ice Control was sent to the School Superintendents and U.S. Post Offices on October 16, 2023.
- A Memorandum was shared with the Public Works Department Employees regarding the Winter Work Schedule, returning to a 5-Day work week

- **Engineering:**

- Bridge Reconstruction/Rehabilitation Project was awarded last week for the Ewan Bridge. The deck is needing replacement.

- **Solid Waste & Recycling:**

- The scale project is basically complete. The concrete has to cure completely to calibrate the scale, this should take a week or two.

087206 27. Pending List was reviewed.

087207 28. Correspondence received was a notice of cannabis license application.

D087207 28a. Approved Documents Signed

11:45 AM - Recessed

12:45 PM – Reconvened - Board Business-Executive Session

087208 29. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to go into executive session at 12:45 PM until 2:00 PM for matters related to negotiations.

Attendance:

In Person – Kelli Campbell

2:00 PM – Return to Open Session/Workshop

Joint County-Port Commissions Meeting at Port of Whitman Office – 302 Mill Street, Colfax

Attendance: Brenda Stav, Tom Kammerzell, Kristine Meyer, Karl Webber, Kara Riebold

087209 30. Workshop items

- Port ADO Update
- Whitman County Broadband Update
- Port Projects Updates
- Update on .09 Funds model
- Invitation to Spokane, Spangle & Palouse Railway presentation
- Legislative priorities

3:00 PM – Recess to Monday October 23, 2023 at 9:00 AM

Monday, October 23, 2023

THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS reconvened in the Commissioner's Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington on Monday, October 23, 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: Chris Nelson, Heather Clark, Jacy Leach, Joshua Vincent, Katie Jensema, Keaton Wheeler, Kelli Campbell, Sarah Hardy, Julian Matthews-Nimiiouu Protection/Sierra Club, Teresa Simpson-Whitman County Gazette

In Person: Mark Storey, Jessica Jensema, Brian Wilson and Dean Cornelison

Consent Agenda:

D087210 31. Approved Consent agenda items signed.

087210 – 087214 The following was approved.

- a. Treasures Wire Transfers & Check Report \$ 586,168.38
- Voucher Claims - #369746 - 369822 \$1,330,665.28
- b. Personal Change Orders Approved

087215 32. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to approve the bid award for the Colfax Stockpile Site Project C.R.C.P. No 176 in the amount of \$454,856.25.

087216 33. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to authorize rejecting the only bidder, JK Crushing LLC for the Gnaedinger Stockpile Site Project, C.R.C.P. No 177 in the amount of \$739,654.50.

Workshop


087217-087218 25. The following items were discussed with no action taken.

- Six Year Tip
- Algal Bloom Monitoring
- Emon Kincaid Road rename
- Old Barn Road
- Public Works CDL/Maintenance Personnel
- Right of Way Clean-up (garbage illegal dropped)
- Planning 101 Training
- SBCC-Home Daycare
- SBCC Bylaws

The foregoing action made this 23rd day of October 2023.

ss/ ARTHUR D SWANNACK, COMMISSIONER
ss/ TOM HANDY, COMMISSIONER

Corey Mitzimberg
Clerk of the Board


Michael Largent, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners

Scotty Anderson

From: the bull <patriots53@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 12:10 PM
To: Scotty Anderson
Subject: resignation letter

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

I Brandon Plenty hereby resign my position in the Whitman county sheriff's office as of October 22nd 2023.