

BOCC MINUTES- 04/18/2022

085642 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in the Auditorium in the Whitman County Public Service Building, Colfax, Washington on **Monday, April 18, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.** Tom Handy Chairman, Arthur D Swannack (remotely) and Michael Largent (remotely) Commissioners, and Corey Mitzimberg, Deputy Clerk of the Board attended.

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

Remotely: Bailey Wiedmer, Bill Tensfeld, Brandy Dean, Chris Nelson, Chris Skidmore, Jacy Leach, Jessica Jensema, Mark Storey, Mishellena Stanley, Sandy Jamison and Wraylee Flodin.

085643 1. The following items were discussed but no action was taken.

- Emergency Declaration for Malden
- OPMA updates
- Veterans Service Officer Hiring Update
- PBAC Hiring Committee/Mark Storey
- Heavy Equipment Mechanic Hiring
- Courthouse Construction Update
- McKinstry Change Orders Combined

9:15 a.m. - Recess.

10:15 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/Flag Salute.

Present: Mark Storey, Nancy Belsby, Barney Buckley, Larry Fox, Bobbie Ryder, Karen Hanekamp, Larry Farr and Tim O'Neil.

Remotely: Alan Thompson, Annie Pillers, Bailey Wiedmer, Bill Tensfeld, Brandon Johnson, Dean Cornelison, Fletcher Aukerman, Jacy Leach, Jeff Marshall, Jessica Jensema, Lance Bishop, Mishellena Stanley, Sara Hardy, Sandy Jamison, Sharron Cunningham, Wraylee Flodin, Richard Wesson and Lydia Fletcher.

D085643 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda:

085644 3. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and **carried** to accept the consent agenda as presented.

085645 4. Treasurer's Wire Transfers and Check Report in the amount of **\$1,397,058.40**, Payroll warrants numbered **360175-360178** for **\$661,586.00** and General Claims/Veterans' Relief warrants numbered **360306, 360345, 360392, 360394-360457** for **\$67,451.95** approved.

085646 5. April 4, 2022 minutes approved.

085647-085654 6. Personnel change orders approved.

085655-085658 7. Small Business Grant Contracts approved.

085659 7A. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and **carried** to approve to amend the agenda adding agenda item 10A and 10B, Commissioner and voting precincts.

085660 8. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and **carried** to approve the revised Signature Authorization Delegation Form from Emergency Management and Communications.

085661 9. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and **carried** to approve the credit card request for Matthew Floyd, Emergency Management Deputy Director.

085703

085662 10. A public meeting was held for the Whitman County Comprehensive Plan.

Citizen, Nancy Belsby, who resides north of Ewan in Whitman County, spoke to the Palouse to Cascade Park Trail.

Ms. Belsby addressed the Commissioners on land east of the Columbia River referred to in Chapter 4, page 47 of the Comprehensive Plan, the Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail. The 250 mile gravel trail lists amenities including hiking, biking, horse riding, wagoning, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, dog sledding with multiple restrooms along the route. Ms. Belsby's commented there are multiple gaps in the trail, including;

- A 20 mile stretch of private railroad
- After Ralston, the trail cannot be continued, WA State removed the bridge across Cow Creek
- At Ewan there is private property on both sides of the Highway 23
- East of Rock Lake Road there is private property causing a detour from Rock Lake Road to Hole in the Ground Road
- There is private property in Pine City

She shared not all of the trail has been upgraded to gravel and is still railroad ballast. She also commented that there are not multiple restrooms along the trail, to her knowledge, other than small towns along the way.

Whitman County Parks, Trails and Recreation map 7, (following page 51, Chapter 4) Ms. Belsby said the map does not depict the gaps in either Adams or Whitman Counties, her concern is it is misleading and said it needs to be corrected to depict the gaps, where there is no trespassing in the trail.

Citizen, Barney Buckley, residing on South Palouse River Road outside of Colfax. He requests some of the language be reviewed and updated, this was also noted by the Commissioners and encourages them to do so. Particularly the language on pages 20-21, titled Railways and Rail Banking. Mr. Buckley feels this paragraph should just be titled Railroads.

The language points towards a predetermined conclusion of railbanking, the language Commissioner Swannack submitted led towards following the process in the event of any out of service railroad. The abandonment process is a specific with the federal government and there are several options, and after a study, would pick the best option for any abandon railway and that language was put in by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Buckley said at the next Planning Meeting the original language was put back in after Commissioner Swannack's language. He would urge that this be studied and corrected.

On Map 5 (pg. 83), Whitman County Road Transportation, Mr. Buckley said an out of service rail corridor doesn't seem to be a road but it's shown on the road map, Mr. Buckley would like this reviewed as well.

He also pointed out on page 49, there is a specific group noted in the rail banking section. Mr. Buckley shared he considers this document a long term and very generalized as far as the planning process and would like to suggest that the Planning Commission include other groups as well or remove the group entirely.

Commissioner Swannack addressed County Planner Alan Tomson asking him to review Map 5 regarding the railroad corridor listed on the Whitman County Road Transportation map. He inquired if this was an error. Mr. Tomson said he would review and respond shortly.

Citizen, Larry Fox, residing on Albion Parvin Road. His comment was in response to Mr. Buckley's comments on page 49 on railbanking specifically the sentence that reads "The County could continue to foster relationships with local groups (i.e., Pullman Civic Trust) who are actively involved in the promotion of railbanking and expansion of the County's multi-purpose trails in balance with private property rights." Mr. Fox stated he opposes this sentence and would suggest a rewrite such as "The County could work with those groups who are actively involved in the promotion of railbanking and expansion of the County's multi-purpose trail and consider the impact on private property rights.", leaving out the specific entity, the Pullman Civic Trust, listed. The last comprehensive plan was written in he believes the 1970s and it should withstand the test of time. He stated the Pullman Civic Trust may not be in business in 50 years, and feels the way it

is written, even with the parenthesis, it looks as though there is some partisanship. It looks as though there is a partnership with this group and he objects to this being written in the document.

Karen Hanekamp who also lives on the Albion Parvin Road and like Mr. Buckley, Mr. Fox and Mr. Farr represents the property owners' group. She would like to reiterate and reinforce what has been said. As a group, the property owners, have sent a letter, signed by 14 land owners, to the Planning Committee and to the Commissioners. It emphasizes the 3rd paragraph on page 20-21 they would like deleted. Also, on page 49 Railbanking changed to not show one specific group and on page 83, the map of the County roads includes the trail. She would appreciate consideration of these matters.

Bobbi Ryder spoke on behalf of Pullman Civic Trust stating she agrees with Larry Fox, regarding showing partisanship on page 49, she said this is a valid point and should not be in the document. She liked Mr. Fox's suggestions and said they are valid. Ms. Ryder commented, "this has been a very extensive and well run process". She felt the consultants and Planning Commission did a very good job with attentiveness to what people had to say. On page 40, Goal T4, policy T-4.1 - "Encourage and support freight -friendly transportation modes such as rail or barge systems whenever possible", she thinks this is what is important to find ways to maintain our rail lines. Based on current gas prices or any other issues that may come up she and Pullman Civic Trust feel maintaining the rail lines is important. Page 48, under Challenges, "Limited space available within Whitman County for Dispersed Recreation, as noted in the Parks Comprehensive Plan, approximately 95% of land within Whitman County is privately owned. With a lack of available acreage, this severely limits the amount of land available to County residents to enjoy dispersed recreational opportunities." As we continue to grow we are going to need places for people to recreate, our County parks system that was established in the late 60's, early 70's, has not gained any additional recreational space except the Chipman Trail. She encourages the Commissioners to think about the future needs of all citizens in the County as we grow.

Commissioner Swannack asked if County Planner, Alan Tomson had an opportunity to review the railroad corridor shown on Map 5. Mr. Tomson said it is an error and will be removed.

Chairman Handy, suggested a clean-up of the word "railbanking", it is in the document as one word and as two words. The correct spelling is one word. He also stated the word "railbed" is used as one and two words throughout the document. He also suggested a separate workshop that would allow time for discussion and public comments.

Commissioner Swannack pointed out the Comprehensive Plan would not be approved today nor sending back to the Planning Commission. He then asked Mr. Tomson if action needed taken at this time to proceed with a workshop. Mr. Tomson responded a hearing must be set and workshops could be held between now and the hearing.

Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and **carried** to set a hearing date for the Comprehensive Plan for June 21, 2022 at 10:20 a.m.

085663 **10A.** The regular meeting was recessed and a hearing convened by the Chairman for Whitman County Code 1.08, Commissioner and Voting Districts.

Whitman County Auditor, Sandy Jamison introduced Jeff Marshall, Public Works Information Systems Project Engineer, to introduce the requested amendment. Mr. Marshall said the changes were shared in a previous workshop, and if no changes are needed he would ask that the Commissioners motion and vote to approve the amendment to County Code 1.08. Commissioner Handy shared the document and maps showing and describing the precincts are on the website, www.whitmancounty.net. He also shared visually in the meeting. Mr. Marshall noted the four digit precinct numbers indicate there was an update through the process, changes were made primarily within or around the City of Pullman or a change to Commissioner district boundaries. The two or three digit numbers did not have a change in the process.

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Auditor, Sandy Jamison said every voter will receive a mailed postcard, as required by law, notifying each voter of their status and all precincts they are in; including school, Commissioner, Legislative, Congressional and in which Ward (as applicable) they reside in as applicable.

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

085664 10B. Commissioner Swannack **moved** Commissioner Largent **seconded** the motion and **carried** to approve the amendment to County Code 1.08, Commissioners and Voting Districts.

085665 11. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** to approve the Chairman signing a letter of Support for Inland Power and Light. Tim O'Brian, General Counsel for Inland Power and Light, an Electric Distribution and Utility Cooperative based in Spokane, WA is requesting a letter of support for a grant application. The grant request is to solicit federal infrastructure dollars to harden their system to mitigate some of the wild fire issues our region has been facing. He presented a PowerPoint giving an overview of Inland Power & Light Co., Historical Events, Wildfire Maps, Recent Wild Mitigation Investments, Future Needs and the Grant Support for fiscal year 2023.

Inland Power is the largest electric cooperative in Washington, serving 13 counties throughout Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho, with 44,393 meters, 49 substations, 101,992 poles and 33,475 transformers. Bonneville Power Administration is their primary source of electric power for Inland. Wildfires have increased and continue to increase causing large monetary damage to equipment, substations, etc. in their service territory. Inland Power's service area is in the 70 to 90% risk area for wildfires, most likely due to severe drought.

Grant funds may be used for activities, technologies, equipment and hardening (replacing and/or adding fire retardant to poles) measures to reduce the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events (wildfires, windstorms damage). This is a match grant; the request is for \$100,000,000.00. Mr. O'Brian iterated the request is for a letter of support, no funding. Motion **carried**.

085666 12. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and **carried** to approve a resolution allowing Reserve Officers from the Sheriff's Office join the Volunteer Firefighters' and Reserve Officers' Relief and Pension Act.

085667 13. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and **carried** to sign the agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide information, referral services and assistance to Veterans and their families with claims and/or application for benefits.

085668 14. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion to table definitely an extension request from the Downtown Colfax Association for their .09 BRATC award for five months until the information necessary to make a decision is received. Motion **carried**.

085669 15. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion to approve a write off of monies owed from a former employee. Bailey Wiedmer, Human Resources said this request has been approved by Denis Tracy, Prosecutor and Administrative Services Director, Jessica Jensema. Motion **carried**.

085670 16. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and **carried** to approve the Chair to sign a letter of thank you to Greg Weber for his service on the Palouse Empire Fair Advisory Board.

085671 17. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and **carried** to approve the publishing of a Notice of Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant (Public Service).

085672 18. Commissioner Largent moved Commissioner Swannack seconded the motion to approve rejection of bid from Shawn Cole Construction for the Solid Waste Scale Project in the amount of \$2,464,356.36. Public Works Director Mark Storey stated at the staff level after examining all the line items and the numbers involved it is not in the County's best interest to award the bid. He is recommending that the Commissioners reject the bid and allow staff to review and prepare a new bid package or account for some of the irregularities they found. Motion carried.

085703

085673 19. Commissioner Largent moved Commissioner Swannack seconded the motion and carried to approve the publishing of a Notice of Intent and holding a public hearing to dispose of surplus County property to be held in the Public Service Building Auditorium in May 2, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

DIVISION UPDATES:

D085673A 20. The following division updates provided by Public Works staff.

Solid Waste Division:

D085673B 20A. Public Works Director Mark Storey, shared they are reviewing and will report back to the Board on the Scale Shack project in the next couple of weeks.

Engineering Division:

D085673C 20B. At the Port of Wilma paving is set to start tomorrow and should be three days of paving as shared by Mark Storey and Dean Cornelison, County Engineer.

Maintenance Division:

D085673D 20C. Mr. Storey shared the Maintenance Division has been focusing on getting gravel down. The weather has inhibited work.

Planning Division:

D085673E 20D. The Shoreline Master Program (SMP) contract that has been worked on with other towns for the flood plains has been approved by the Department of Ecology. The monies have been released allowing work to start with the consultant.

Building Division:

085674 20E. Building Inspector, Ginny Rumiser shared the 2022 1st Quarter Activity;

- Building Permits Issued: 33
- Building Permits Pending: 15
- Total Inspections: 74
- Total Final Inspections: 33
- Total Miles Driven: 2,284
- Average Daily Miles: 30.86
- Total Valuations: \$4,798,848.00
- Permit Fees \$18,554.00
- Plan Review Fees \$ 8,737.00
- Total Fees: \$27,291.00

Ms. Rumiser shared 1st quarter has started out slow due to weather conditions, this is typical. Thirty three building permits were issued, five of which were new homes. She shared there have been ten commercial permits issued, commercial valuations totaled \$693,000. These numbers are down slightly from last year.

An Interlocal was signed at the first of 2022 with the Town of Endicott, for building permits and inspections only.

Chairman Handy asked why the fees don't reflect the total valuations with Ms. Rumiser responding the fees are set and not based on the valuation. Commissioner Swannack asked if there are projects starting, Ms. Rumiser said not at this time however she feels the

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weather is hindering projects starting. She also shared that traditionally first and fourth quarters are slow with second and third being the busy times.

Administrative Division:

D085674A 20F. Commissioner Swannack asked about the multiple openings on the Solid Waste Committee. Mr. Storey responded that there is no concern with the open slots, there is at least a slot for each town. He would like to recruit some members in the future.

D085674B 20G. Mr. Storey reported that both himself and employee Bob Sevedge passed the Bridge Certification Exam, therefore they are covered for five years.

CORRESPONDENCE:

D085674C 21. The following correspondence was received:

085675 21A. The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board sent expiration notices, with an expiration date of September 30, 2022, for Happy Time LLC 3 and Northwest Finest.

085676 22. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

D085676A 23. Approved documents signed.

11:50 a.m. - Recess.

1:30 p.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/Executive Session.

Present: Chris Skidmore

085677 24. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and **carried** to go into executive session with the above individual(s) until **1:30 p.m.** in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) for matters related to employee evaluations.

2:05 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Recess.

2:15 p.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/Executive Session.

Present: Lance Bishop, Bill Tensfeld, Chris Nelson, Jeff Hall, Wraylee Flodin and Sandy Jamison.

085678 25. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Swannack **seconded** the motion and **carried** to go into executive session with the above individual(s) until **3:15 p.m.** in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for matters related to Infrastructure and security of Agency computer and telecommunications networks.

3:15 p.m. - Commissioner Handy announced the Executive Session would continue to 4:15.

4:15 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Recess.

D085678A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in the Auditorium in the Whitman County Public Service Building, Colfax, Washington on **Monday, April 25, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.** Tom Handy Chairman, Arthur D Swannack (remotely) and Michael Largent (remotely) Commissioners and Corey Mitzimberg, Deputy Clerk of the Board attended.

9:00 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued.

D085678B 26. Approved consent agenda items signed.

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085679 27. Treasurers Wire Transfers and Check Report in the amount of \$289,517.94, Payroll warrants numbered 360494-36047 for \$505,513.52 and General/Veterans' Relief/Payroll warrants numbered 360473-360554 for \$297,448.13 approved.

085680-085684 28. Personnel change orders approved.

085685-085697 29. Small Business Grant Contracts approved.

9:05 a.m. - BOCC Workshop.

Remotely: Bailey Wiedmer, Bill Tensfeld, Chris Nelson, Chris Skidmore, Crystn Guenther, Dean Cornelison, Fletcher Aukerman, Jacy Leach, Jessica Jensema, Kelli Campbell, Lance Bishop, Sara Hardy, Sharron Cunningham and Anthony Kuipers.

085698 30. The following items were discussed but no action was taken.

- Historic Preservation Fund
- Assistant for Administrative Services and Clerk of the Board
- ARPA Funds
- Grants for Taxing Districts
- Refugee Grant
- CDBG/CAC Grant
- System Monitoring Device for Cyber Security
- COVID Update

9:30 a.m. - Adjournment.

D085698A Commissioner Largent **moved** to adjourn the **April 18** and **April 25, 2022** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Swannack and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in the Auditorium of the Whitman County Public Service Building, Colfax, Washington, on **May 2, 2022**. The foregoing action made this **25th** day of **April, 2022**.

ss/ ARTHUR D SWANNACK, COMMISSIONER
ss/ MICHAEL LARGENT, COMMISSIONER

Corey Mitzimberg
Clerk of the Board

TOM HANDY, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners

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