

WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

August 7-20, 2023

087006 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in the Commissioner Chambers at the Whitman County Courthouse, 400 N Main St., Colfax, Washington on Monday, August 7, 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 – Brandy Dean, Chris Nelson, Jacy Leach, Jessica Jensema, Keaton Wheeler, Juvenile Dept., Sarah Hardy and Sandy Jamison.
- In Person – Bill Tensfeld and Mark Storey

087007 1. The following items were discussed with no action taken:

- .09 funds/McDonald Park
- EWCOG Letter/Fish & Wildlife
- Temporary/Season Employee pay rate
- Special Meeting minutes
- Health Department Pullman relocation
- Building Purchase
- Whitcom Console project
- Old phones
- Almota 3 update
- Albion Road update
- Public Works Liability rates
- Public Works re-classification
- Public Works additional Financial Specialist
- Adding a TCP module for graveyard shifts
- Park Department leash laws
- Website update

9:50 AM- Recessed

10:15 AM – Reconvened- Board Business

Attendance:

- Remotely – Brandy Dean, Chris Nelson, Jacy Leach, Jessica Jensema, Keaton Wheeler, Juvenile Dept., Sarah Hardy and Sandy Jamison.
- In Person – Bill Tensfeld and Mark Storey

New/Old Business

2. Pledge Allegiance was recited
3. There was no public comment

087008a 4. Consent Agenda items approved.

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------|
| a. 086995a | Treasures Wire Transfers & Check Report | \$ 149,342.37 |
| 086995a | Voucher Claims - #367795-367845 | \$ 270,343.43 |
| b. 086996 | July 17-30 and August 1, 2023 Minutes | |
| c. 086997-087008 | Personal Change Orders Approved | |

D087008b 4a. . Commissioner Swannack motioned, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to amend the agenda adding item 8A., signing a letter to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission from Eastern Washington Council of Governments (EWCOG).

087009 5. Commissioner Swannack motioned, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the correction to the Extension Office petty cash account number for the Countywide Petty Cash.

087010 6. Commissioner Swannack motioned, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the request for a second Coleman Oil fuel card in the Health Department.

087011 7. Commissioner Swannack motioned, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to rescind the ARPA agreement with Peace Lutheran.

- Commissioner Swannack commented this agreement has been rescinded because Peace Lutheran was no longer able to proceed with the planned daycare center.

087012 8. Commissioner Swannack motioned, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to allow Commissioner Largent, Chair, to sign the .Gov domain registration authorizing IT Director, Craig Wines to be the administrative contact for Whitman County.

087013 8A. Commissioner Swannack motioned, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to sign a letter to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission from Eastern Washington Council of Governments (EWCOG). The letter shares EWCOG is against the Fish and Wildlife proposed Draft Management Policy that states “being more about preservation than conservation, it violates the Department’s legal mandate established by RCW 77.04.012.

087014 9. Public Works Division Updates were provided by Public Works County Director Mark Storey.

- **Engineering:**
 - Almota 3 Project update. Contractor has completed all work and has pulled all equipment from the site. Paving will begin in approximately three weeks, by a sub-contractor. As a reminder, the gravel road still has a speed limit of 35, all construction signs are still posted. Violators may be ticketed and should consider the danger and potential windshield rock chips.
- **Maintenance:**
 - Roads have been resurfaced up to highway 95, primarily in District 1 and is funded with CAPP funds.
- **Building:**
 - The Whitman County Public Works Department is Thursday, September 21, 2023 at the Colfax Golf Course. All employees are invited and encouraged to participate regardless of skill level.

087015 10. Correspondence – A notice of expiration was received from the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board for Natural Leaf LLC.

087016 11. Pending List Reviewed

D087016A 12. Approved Documents Signed

10:15 AM – Recessed

10:45 AM – Called to Order – Workshop

Attendance:

- **Remotely** – Jacy Leach, Suni Woods and Teresa Simpson

- In Person – Bailey St. John, Craig Wines, Jessica Jensema, Kelli Campbell, Katie Jensema and Mark Storey

087017 13. The following items were discussed with no action taken:

- 2024 Health Insurance options

11:45 AM – Recessed

1:00 PM – Called to Order – Workshop

Attendance:

- In Person – Bill Tensfeld and Matthew Floyd
- 087018 14. The following items were discussed with no action taken:
- Emergency Communication towers
 - Cell phone towers
 - BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment) funds

1:50 PM – Recessed to Monday, August 14, 2023

Monday, August 14, 2023

THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in the Commissioner’s Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington on Monday, August 14, 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: Bill Tensfeld, Brandy Dean, Chris Nelson, Chris Skidmore, Jacy Leach, Jessica Jensema, Kristina Cooper, Sarah Hardy and Suni Wood

In Person: Garry Roussel and Olivia Harnack, Whitman County Gazette

Workshop

- 087019 15. The following items were discussed with no action taken.
- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| • Hotdog Stand/Cart proposal | • Pullman Disposal, Whitcom Bldg. accident |
| • Liability Insurance update | • Taxpayer concern with penalty |
| • Port of Whitman meeting | • Health dept. relocation |
| • Port of Wilma road | • Canvas Board/late ballots |
| • Funding for Daycare center | • Public Service Bldg. Contractors |
| • Public Defense Grant | • Courthouse Heating and Air update |

Consent Agenda:

D087019a 16. Approved Consent agenda items signed.

087020-087022 The following was approved.

- | | | |
|----|---|---------------|
| a. | Treasures Wire Transfers & Check Report | \$ 280,874.90 |
| | Voucher Claims - #368470-368648 | \$ 577,565.33 |
| b. | July 17-30 and August 1, 2023 Minutes | |

c. Personal Change Orders Approved

087023 16A. Commissioner Handy motioned, Commissioner Largent seconded and it was carried to add an Executive Session as item 18A and an action item immediately following as 18B regarding a possible property purchase.

087024 17. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to go into executive session from 10:30 AM until 12:00 PM to discuss negotiations. The session continued to 12:30 as announced publicly.

1:00 PM Reconvened- Workshop

087025 18. Workshop held at the Port of Whitman Office, 302 Mill Street, Colfax, WA

Attendance: Whitman County Commissioners, Port of Whitman Commissioners, Kristine Meyer, Karl Webber and Tom Kammerzell, Kara Riebold, Brenda Stav, Calvin Johanson, Jody Opheim and Greg Paartch,

The following items were discussed but no action was taken

- Oakesdale Flour Mill
- ADO Update
- Colfax Child Care

2:00 PM Recessed

3:15 PM Reconvened – Board Business Executive Session

087026 18A. Commissioner Handy motioned, Commissioner Largent seconded and it was carried to go into Executive Session from 3:15 PM to 3:45 PM to discuss RXW 42.30.110 (1)(c), sale or lease of real estate.

087027 18B. The Commissioners returned to open session and cancelled the action item.

D087027 Commissioner Handy **moved** to adjourn the August 7th and 14th, 2023 meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Swannack and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in the Commissioner's Chambers of the Whitman County commissioners Chambers, Colfax, Washington, on August 21, 2023.

The foregoing action made this 14th day of August 2023.

ss/ ARTHUR D SWANNACK, COMMISSIONER

ss/ TOM HANDY, COMMISSIONER

Corey Mitzimberg
Clerk of the Board

Michael Largent, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners