

BOCC MINUTES- 10/18/2021

084856 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington on **Monday, October 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** Arthur D Swannack, Chairman, Michael Largent (remotely) and Tom Handy (remotely) Commissioners, and Corey Mitzimberg, Deputy Clerk of the Board attended.

10:00 a.m. - Call to Order/Board Business/Flag Salute.

Present: Mark Storey, Ginny Rumiser and Dean Cornelison.

Remotely: Bailey Wiedmer, Brandy Dean, Fletcher Aukerman, Jessica Jensema, Lorena Lynch and Sharron Cunningham.

D084856A 1. Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda:

084857 2. Commissioner Largent moved Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to accept the consent agenda as presented.

084858 3. Treasurer's Wire Transfers and Check Report in the amount of \$498,392.34 and General Claims/Veterans' Relief warrants numbered 357194-357299 for \$295,277.47 approved.

084859 4. October 4, 2021 minutes approved.

084860-084868 5. Personnel change orders approved.

084869 6. Commissioner Largent moved Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to sign the 2022 Whitman County Life Flight Renewal.

084870 7. Commissioner Largent moved Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to authorize the Chairman to sign the 2021-3rd quarter PDC lobbyist report.

084871 7A. The following Public Works related issues approved/updated:

084872 8. Commissioner Largent moved Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to sign an interlocal agreement between the Town of Reardan and Whitman County Public Works Department.

084873 9. Commissioner Largent moved Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to sign the contract with Seubert Excavators, Inc., Cottonwood, ID, for the Gordon Quarry Crushing Project.

084874 10. Commissioner Largent moved Commissioner Handy seconded the motion to approve a resolution authorizing the hazard tree removal on the Pine City-Malden Road. Public Works Director Mark Storey shared this contract with FEMA will pay for hazardous tree removal in the Malden/Pine City burn area. The Public Works department has been working with a professional forestry firm on the removal of these trees however found tree removal companies with the capabilities are not available to complete this. Since the state of emergency still exist and with the hazard concerns the decision has been made it is in the best interest of the citizens these trees are removed before winter. The cost is approximately \$200,000.00 however we should receive FEMA reimbursement when complete.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 084874
BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

In the matter of contracting for hazard tree removal, public Rights of Way, Malden/Pine City area, Whitman County, Washington.

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WHEREAS, the Whitman County Engineer and the Maintenance Operation Manager have been pursuing a contract to remove hazard trees located within the County Road Rights-of-Way affected by the Malden area fires of September 5, 2020.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners declared a state of emergency to exist as a result of the September 5, 2020 fires.

WHEREAS, the emergency declaration by the Board of County Commissioners allows for a waiver to the competitive bid process.

WHEREAS, the County Engineer and Maintenance Operations Manager have been working with a professional forestry management company to create a scope of work and identify a contractor to remove hazard trees in the affected area.

WHEREAS, there appears to be limited availability of companies that are both qualified and available to do the hazard tree removal work.

WHEREAS, it is believed that, due to the exigent hazard condition, it is in the best interest and safety of the citizens of Whitman County to remove the hazard trees prior to winter, necessitating the need to remove the hazard trees on a short timeline.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the County Engineer and Maintenance Operations Manager are authorized to contract for the hazard tree removal along County Road Rights-of-Way through a non-competitive process for the areas affected by the September 5, 2020 fires.

DATED at Colfax, Washington, this 18th day of October, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

Arthur D Swannack, Chairman

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board
BY: Corey Mitzimberg
Deputy Clerk of the Board

Tom Handy, Commissioner

Michael Largent, Commissioner

DIVISION UPDATES:

D084874A 11. The following division updates provided by Public Works staff.

Solid Waste Division:

D084874B 11A. Mark Storey provided an update for the long haul contract. The current contractor, Republic Services and the Public Works department have been negotiating and Working on details with another trucking company Mr. Storey stated the final contract will be available soon.

Engineering Division:

D084874C 11B. Dean Cornelison reported at the Port of Wilma, pavement repairs areas/dig outs of the current roadway will start next week with paving to start the first week of November, weather permitting.

D084874D 11C. Poe Asphalt will begin paving on the Johnson Area Roads Overlay project beginning tomorrow, October 19, 2021. Weather permitting paving will be complete Thursday with project completion late next week (week of October 25, 2021).

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D084874E 11D. Mr. Cornelison shared progress at the Gordon Quarry, Seubert Excavators, Inc. will be in the area next week (October 25-29, 2021) for prep work and then drill and blast in November. Public Works will have a crusher at the site in early January 2022, with the January 31, 2022 deadline still set.

Maintenance Division:

D084874F 11E. Mark Storey, shared road painting is almost complete, a future paint date may be necessary.

084875 11F. The fires in Malden/Pine City did destroy some of the guardrails, there is federal money available to repair guardrails and bridge ends. This went out for bid and was awarded to Frank Gurney, Inc. of Spokane Valley, WA for \$99,825.00. Work should start in the next couple of weeks. Chairman Swannack noted three bids were requested and only one was received back. Mr. Storey responded this is becoming a common occurs with bid requests.

D084875A 11G. Mr. Storey shared fall grading and gravel work is being done before the snow arrives, traditionally snow equipment is put together in early November.

D084875B 11H. Chairman Swannack asked about the upcoming coming action item for Notice of Dirt Road Closures. Mr. Storey responded this will be addressed in the next meeting however he said dirt road closures happen at this time yearly and notices will be sent. Chairman Swannack commented due to the rain, weeding is being done along with seeding. Mr. Storey commented with the roads closing on November 15, 2021, when there is a valid reason for road use a permit will be written to allow usage. The reasoning is Public Works cannot print signs with various dates when there is a dry fall, a majority of the time by November 15th work is completed in the fields. Permits can be written by calling the Public Works department.

Building Division:

084876 11I. Public Works Building Inspector Ginny Rumiser presented the third quarter report for the building division, sharing 39 building permits were issued, with 12 pending at the time of the report and 8 of which were commercial. Commercial permits included cell towers, both new and modifications as well as projects at Central Ferry and with Helena. The total valuations are \$2,980,640.00 with permit fees totaling \$24,789.00 and review fees of \$13,596.00 for a fee total of \$38,385.00. Ms. Rumiser also shared the total miles driven for the third quarter was 4,279 an average of 66.86 miles per day.

084877 12. The regular meeting was recessed and the hearing convened by the Chairman for the continuation of the 2022 Budget Hearing.

Staff report provided by Jessica Jensema, Administrative Director as follows:

Ms. Jensema shared she is still in the process of reviewing notes from the 2022 budget department meetings. She noted updates to the 2022 Budget are still in process by many departments.

The hearing was opened to public comment.

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

084878 13. Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Handy **seconded** the motion and **carried** to ratify Chairman Swannack's signature for the reimbursement agreement for the State vs. Blake decision between the Administrative Offices of the Court and Whitman County.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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D08478A 14. The following correspondence was received:

084879 14A. WSDA Food Assistance letter of support from Chairman Swannack.
084880 14B. 2021 Whitman County Cattleman's Association Annual Dinner and Auction invite.

084881 14C. Request for Proclamation from the Whitman County Library for "Everybody Reads".

084882 14D. The Owner's Policy of Title Insurance was received from McGuire, DeWulf, Kragt & Johnson, P.S. was received for the Cochrane Living Trust land in Colfax, WA.

084883 15. **Commissioners' pending list reviewed.**
The following items are complete and will be removed;

- Bald Butte Tower Agreement.
- Installation of Updated FTR Equipment/Software in 5 Locations.

D084883A Commissioner Swannack shared with Brandy Dean he has received numerous compliments on how she and her team have done a great job with this project and getting everyone moved.

D084883B 16. Approved documents signed.

084884 17. Executive session cancelled due to lack of statutory exemption to the open public Meeting act.

10:30 a.m. - Recess.

1:00 p.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued.

Remotely: Bailey Wiedmer, Kelli Campbell, Sandy Jamison, Jessica Jensema, Fletcher Aukerman, Jacy leach, Sharron Cunningham, Brandy Dean and Chris Skidmore

084885 18. The following items were discussed but no action was taken.

- Department of Commerce/DocuSign
- Mileage payment for construction relocated employees
- Proclamation-"Everybody Reads"
- Whitcom Buildings Lease/Usage
- City of Colfax Daycare grant
- Pay rates for District & Superior Court

2:00 p.m. - Recess.

D084885A **THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington on **Monday, October 25, 2021** at **10:00 a.m.** Arthur D Swannack, Chairman, Michael Largent (remotely) and Tom Handy (remotely) Commissioners, and Corey Mitzimberg, Deputy Clerk of the Board attended.

10:00 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued.

D084885B 19. Approved consent agenda items signed.

084886 20. Treasurers Wire Transfers and Check Report in the amount of **\$262,448.98**, Payroll warrants numbered **357300-357308** for **\$452,159.18** and General/Veterans' Relief/Payroll warrants numbered **357309-357411** for **\$305,554.68** approved.

084887-084892 21. Personnel change orders approved.

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084893 **21A.** Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Handy **seconded** the motion and **carried** to amend the agenda adding items 25-29.

10:05 a.m. - BOCC Workshop.

Remotely: Bailey Wiedmer, Bill Tensfeld, Chris Skidmore, Fletcher Aukerman, Jessica Jensema, Jeff Marshall, Mark Storey, Sandy Jamison, Sharron Cunningham and Jacob Jones.

084894 **22.** The following items were discussed but no action was taken.

- Whitcom building discussion
- Draft language for District and Superior Court Judges
- Everybody Reads Proclamation
- Public Works Update
- Reminder of Employee Benefit Open Enrollment
- Commissioner Meeting/Workshop Time Change
- Covid-19 Update

084895 **23.** 2022 COLA Discussion has been moved to the afternoon session as item #26.

The following item was discussed but no action was taken.

084896 **24.** Redistricting Draft Boundary Option Discussion.

12:00 p.m. - Recess.

The following items were discussed but no action was taken.

084897 **25.** 2022 Budget Discussion

084898 **26.** 2022 COLA Discussion

2:30 p.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/Executive Session.

Present: Kelli Campbell and Bailey Wiedmer.

084899 **27.** Commissioner Largent **moved** Commissioner Handy **seconded** the motion and **carried** to go into executive session with the above individuals until 2:30 p.m. in accordance with RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) for matters related to negotiations.

3:00 p.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/Workshop.

The following items were discussed but no action was taken.

084900 **28.** ARPA Funds Use Discussion.

084901 **29.** Non-Action Items - No additional discussion.

3:15 p.m. - Adjournment.

D084901A Commissioner Largent **moved** to adjourn the **October 18th** and **25th, 2021** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Handy and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in their Chambers', in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington, on **November 1, 2021**. The foregoing action made this **25th** day of **October 2021**.

ss/ TOM HANDY, COMMISSIONER
ss/ MICHAEL LARGENT, COMMISSIONER

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board
By: Corey Mitzimberg
Deputy Clerk of the Board

ARTHUR D SWANNACK, CHAIRMAN
Board of County Commissioners