

WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES  
October 30, 2023

087219 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 30, 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, Craig Wines, Crystn Guenthner, Heather Clark, Jessica Jensema, Joshua Vincent, Katie Jensema, Keaton Wheeler, Kelli Campbell, Kristina Cooper, Sarah Hardy, Suni Wood, Teresa Simpson-Gazette and Wraylee Flodin

In Person - Sandy Jamison, Crystn Guenthner, Chris Skidmore, Bill Tensfeld, Mark Storey, Dean Cornelison

087220 1. The following items were discussed with no action taken:

- CRAB Updates
- Jeff Kuhn inquiry/concern
- Winona Road Trestle Celebration
- Veterans Service Board meeting
- Salary Commission Board update
- Palouse Trail Committee letter
- Building Code/Energy Code Language Hearings
- Wildland Urban Interface Code
- County Liability Insurance
- Public Works-Mechanic
- Steptoe Bridge robbery
- Edmonson Bridge
- Channel work needed-Fish passage requirements
- Old Barn Road property lines
- Maintenance Worker Driver Training
- Procurement Policy update timeline
- Sand and Kirkland Road RFQ
- Solid Waste RFQ
- Hume Road Wetlands

9:45 AM - Recessed

10:15 AM – Reconvened- Board Business

Attendance:

Remotely – Heather Clark and Jessica Jensema

In Person – Brian Wilson, Dean Cornelison, Mark Storey and Kelli Campbell, Brock Hill, Amy Hill, Kari Hill, Kelly Jones, Craig Fleener and Galen Carothers.

New/Old Business

D087220a 2. Pledge Allegiance was recited

D087220b 3. There was no public comment

087220c 4. Consent Agenda items approved.

- 087221 Treasures Wire Transfers & Check Report \$ 653,335.07
- 087221 Voucher Claims - #369841-369911 \$ 331,218.25
- 087222-087232 Personal Change Orders Approved.
- 087233 October 16, 2023 Minutes.

087234 5. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve and sign a Memo of Understanding for the Courthouse Bargaining Unit 2024 Health Insurance.

087235 6. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve and sign a Memo of Understanding for the Courthouse Bargaining Unit Salary Ranges and Classifications update.

087236 7. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve and sign the agreement with the 2024 – 2026 Solid Waste Bargaining Unit.

087237 8. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve and sign the 2024 – 2026 agreement with the Road Department Bargaining Unit.

087238 9. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve and sign the 2024 – 2026 agreement with the Corrections Officers and Service Support Staff.

087239 10. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to ratify Commissioner Largent’s signature for the 2024 Life Flight contract.

087240 11. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the amended CDBG CV 1 Subrecipient Agreement with the Community Action Center.

087241 12. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the amended CDBG CV1 Subrecipient Agreement with Council on Aging and Human Services.

087242 13. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the Local Voters Pamphlet Participation Waivers for the following entities;

- Endicott School District #308
- Whitman County Fire District #1

087243 14. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to send a letter requesting financial assistance from partner entities for the Chipman Trail Bridge replacement.

087244 15. Bids were opened by Commissioner Handy for the Countywide Guardrail Project. The following bids were received:

- Peterson Bros., Sumner, WA - Basis of Award \$1,002,353.99
- M2 Industrial, Inc., Ellensburg, WA - Basis of Award \$ 921,337.00
- Dirt & Aggregate Interchange Inc., Fairview, OR - Basis of Award \$ 994,900.00
- Frank Gurney, Inc., Spokane Valley, WA - Basis of Award \$ 821,334.70

Public Works Director Mark Storey stated, the current low bid is Frank Gurney, Inc., bids will be reviewed and the intended date of award is Monday, November 6, 2023.

087245 16. The regular meeting was recessed and the hearing convened by the Chairman for the Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

County Engineer, Dean Cornelison asked the audience if there was anyone attending that would like to be part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Process (STIP), no one participated. He then shared the Annual Bridge Report for 2023, the Road Priority Rating worksheet, a simplified version of the six-year plan for 2024-2029 report and the priority rating worksheet. Public Works Director Mark Storey recommended the presented Six Year Transportation Program (TIP) be approved.

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

087246 17. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve the resolution adopting the Six Year Transportation Program (TIP) – 2024-2029.

087247 18. Commissioner Largent opened the discussion for the vacation of the Old Barn Road, Vaughn Road and the Vaughn Bridge, requesting Public Works Director Mark Storey to start the discussion. Since the last meeting, Mr. Storey confirmed;

- the property lines for Old Barn Road via a survey done by Dan Hall, County Engineer
- property lines on the bridge are 50/50 of the property owners using it for access, with vacation the bridge would be co-owned
- posts placed by the Bruns family are correctly placed on the property line

Mr. Storey shared 1935 photo and 1969 photos of showing Old Barn Road, the bridge and where the road went for clarification of where things were.

Mr. Brock Hill and his family remains against the vacation. He owns 40 acres that he feels would block access to his property. The property will be split up amongst Mr. Hill's daughters in the near future. There is other access to the property however Mr. Hill's daughter stated this would be inconvenient and not cost effective.

Kelly Jones, property owner who would own one side of the bridge, should it be vacated, shared a letter from the Albright family who was unable to attend requesting the bridge not be vacated due to future bridge maintenance responsibilities.

Commissioner Largent asked if a right of way easement could be granted. Ms. Jones responded she does not own the land were the easement would need to be granted, that decision would have to be made by her father, Al Bruns.

Craig Fleener, farms Keener land, asked about road maintenance for intermittent usage. If the road is vacated, it will be more difficult farming. Commissioner Swannack confirmed it would not impossible to farm it, with Mr. Fleener agreeing not impossible, less convenient.

Commissioner Largent requested to not make any decision today and would like to speak to Mr. Bruns regarding an easement.

Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to table this discussion until Monday, November 6, 2023. Time of discussion will be indicated on the November 6, 2023 agenda.

D087247 18a. Galen Carothers, who lives on Dry Creek Road, shared concerns over traffic accidents on the turn in front of his property as well as traffic turning from Imler Road onto Dry Creek Road. He shared often wrecked vehicles and debris ends up on his property from accidents and is requesting a guardrail on this turn. Public Works Director, Mark Storey and Operations Manager Brian Wilson, both shared the road/turn has been reviewed and does not qualify for guardrails. Brian Wilson also commented based on information he has received both speed and cell phone usage has been a contributing factor to the accidents in this particular area. Mr. Carothers shared a thumb drive with pictures of the area of concern, it was given to Mr. Storey for viewing.

087248 19. Public Works Division Updates were provided by Public Works County Director Mark Storey, County Engineer Dean Cornelison, Maintenance Operations Manager Brian Wilson and Building Inspector Ginny Rumiser.

- Building:
  - Ginny Rumiser shared 62 building permits were issued with 11 building permits pending and 11 Commercial Construction permits issued totaling 111 inspections, 26 of which

were final inspections. The largest commercial permit issued was to Helena, three permits were issued for single family dwellings.

- Commercial Valuations totaled \$1,790,400 and total valuations is \$4,624,180
- Permit fees totaled \$30,326, total plan review fees were \$14,535 for a combined total of \$44,861

- Engineering:

- Mr. Storey and Mr. Cornelison presented to the County Road Administration Board (CRAB) last week asking for an additional \$438,000 to do the Sand Road Overlay Project. Previously the cap of what could be requested from the CRAB on overlay projects in our region was \$750,000. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,200,000 - \$1,300,000, the ask is to fulfill the amount requested on the original project which was \$1,100,000. The request was approved unanimously. Mr. Storey noted Commissioner Swannack, who is on the board, did recused himself from the vote. Additional federal funding may be requested however this funding is limited due to the classification of Sand Road.

- Maintenance:

- Brian Wilson, Operations Manager, said each district has a Sander and Plow ready for snow. Road grading will continue with delays due to weather as it is necessary to wait for the ground to unfreeze.

087249-087250 20. Correspondence received included;

- Notification from the State of Washington Office of Governor Jay Inslee appointing Commissioner Michael Largent to the Forensic Investigations Council.
- A letter was received from Janell Baker requesting financial assistance for Footprints Learning Center.
- The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board sent a special occasion request for an event from the Colton Uniontown Livestock Boosters. There was a brief discussion. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded and it was carried to approve and sign the request.

087251 21. Pending List was reviewed

D087251 22. Approved Documents Signed

12:00 PM- Recessed

1:00 PM – Reconvened - Board Business- Executive Session

087252 23. Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to go into executive session at 1:00 PM until 2:00 PM for matters related to negotiations.

Attendance:

In Person – Kelli Campbell

2:00 PM- Return to Open Session – Adjourned

D087252 Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Handy seconded the motion and carried to adjourn the October 30, 2023 meeting. The Board will meet in regular session, in the Commissioner's Chambers of the Whitman County Commissioners Chambers, Colfax, Washington, on November 6, 2023.

The foregoing action made this 30th 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