

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Port of Whitman County of October 4, 2007.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Port office in Colfax, Washington. Present were all Commissioners, the Executive Director, the Properties and Development Manager, the Port Attorney, and Joe Smillie of the Whitman County Gazette.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A **MOTION** was made to approve the Minutes of the meeting of September 20, 2007, as mailed and entered in the minute book. The motion carried. It was noted that Commissioner Gronholz's approval of the Minutes of the meeting of September 20, 2007, pertained only to the portion of the meeting attended by Commissioner Gronholz by telephone as reflected in the Minutes.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** A **MOTION** was made to pay Claim Nos. 17662 through 17699 totaling \$260,802.82 and electronic funds transfer for payroll taxes of \$5,729.16. The motion carried.

**INLAND NORTHWEST PARTNERS FALL MEETING:** Commissioner Love reported on attending the Inland Northwest Partners fall meeting on September 8, 2007, with Commissioner Boone. The main topic was economic revitalization through the arts. It was noted that Palouse was one example of a small city that has seen the economic benefits of an active arts community.

**VALLEY VISION MEETING:** Commissioner Boone reported on attending the Valley Vision meeting of October 2, 2007. At the meeting Executive Director Bob Tibbett reported on business recruitment efforts.

**WATER SUMMIT MEETING:** The Executive Director reported on attending the water summit meeting in Pullman on October 2, 2007. One of the speakers was Steve Robischon, the Executive Director of the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC), who presented a report on declining aquifer levels in the region. Sponsoring agencies for the summit include the following: Idaho Department of Water Resources, Moscow-Pullman Daily News, Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee, Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, Palouse Water Conservation Network, Pullman Chamber of Commerce, Washington State Department of Ecology, and Whitman County.

**REGIONAL BREAKFAST FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS:** Commissioner Love reported on attendance of the October 3, 2007, regional breakfast for elected officials with Commissioner Gronholz.

**ADO/RPTO JOINT MEETING:** Commissioner Gronholz reported on the ADO/RPTO joint meeting. Among the topics of discussion were new bylaws for the RPTO. The new bylaws clarify that

authority for all financial and budget decisions resides in the county commissions of the four counties making up the RPTO (Whitman, Asotin, Garfield, and Columbia). Final approval of the new bylaws is scheduled for the next meeting. Short line railroad issues in the region were also discussed at the meeting.

**TERRY LAWHEAD/CTED:** Terry Lawhead of CTED joined the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Mr. Lawhead reported on the innovation zone project, the Governor's strategic fund, and rail issues. The Governor's strategic fund authorizes discretionary spending by the Governor to fund work force training.

**GREEN GRID PROJECT:** The Executive Director reported that the Port has been awarded an innovation partnership zone grant for the green grid project of \$1 million, one of five grants awarded.

**RAIL SERVICE:** The Executive Director noted that he had recently met with Mike Roswell of Washington State Department of Transportation to discuss various strategies for preserving rail service in the region.

**PORT TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT:** The Executive Director presented his power point report on the Port telecommunications project which he will be presenting on October 11, 2007, in Portland at the TCI conference.

**REGULAR MEETING RECESSED:** At 12:00 p.m., the Port President called for a recess for lunch, with the regular meeting to reconvene at 12:30 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED:** At 12:30 p.m., the regular meeting of the Port of Whitman County reconvened following lunch recess. Present were all Commissioners, the Executive Director, the Properties and Development Manager, and the Port Attorney.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE TRAINING COURSE:** The Properties and Development Manager reported on attending the cultural resource training course in The Dalles, Oregon, organized by the Washington State Department of Transportation. The Washington Public Ports Association paid for her tuition at the conference. She noted that the SEPA regulations are becoming even more stringent in cultural resource issues.

**CENTRAL FERRY GRAVEL PIT - MOTLEY AND MOTLEY EXERCISED OPTION:** The Properties and Development Manager reported that Motley and Motley has executed its option to proceed with the use of the quarry at the Central Ferry gravel pit.

**CENTRAL FERRY - CENTRAL FERRY DRY FERTILIZER STORAGE LLC SEPA:** The Properties and Development Manager reported that Central Ferry Dry Fertilizer Storage LLC is working with port staff on the SEPA process to permit and construct a UREA mixing plant at Central Ferry.

**POWBAC - STORAGE UNITS:** The Properties and Development Manager reported that Keith Paulson is working with Port staff on the SEPA process for storage units to be constructed at POWBAC.

**2008 PRELIMINARY DRAFT BUDGET:** The Executive Director reported that a preliminary draft budget for the year 2008 has been completed. Commissioner Boone worked with the Port staff on the preliminary draft.

**PORT MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2007, RESCHEDULED:** A **MOTION** was made to reschedule the Port meeting of November 15, 2007, to November 19, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in the Port office in Colfax, Washington, by reason of conflict with the Washington Public Ports Association annual meeting scheduled for November 14-16, 2007. The motion carried.

**POWBAC - "FLY-IN":** The Properties and Development Manager noted that a "fly-in" was scheduled for POWBAC on October 9, 2007. As many as 100 attendees are expected.

**2008 BUDGET HEARING:** A **MOTION** was made to schedule the first hearing on the 2008 budget during the meeting of November 1, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. The motion carried.

**GOVERNOR'S EDUCATION/ENVIRONMENT ECONOMY COUNCIL:** The Executive Director reported that he has been invited to participate in the Governor's education/environment/economy council. He raised concerns about an overburdened schedule. He suggested that he make further inquiry of what time commitment would be involved. No action was taken.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 1:30 p.m., the Port President called for an executive session to discuss real estate matters, with the regular meeting to reconvene at 2:00 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED:** The regular meeting of the Port of Whitman County reconvened at 2:00 p.m. following executive session. Present were all Commissioners, the Executive Director, the Properties and Development Manager, and the Port Attorney.

**MADER PROPERTY DOCUMENTS:** A **MOTION** was made to authorize the Properties and Development Manager or the Executive Director to execute final documents on the purchase of the "Mader" property. The motion carried.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

PORT OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION

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ROBERT F. GRONHOLZ, President

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DANIEL W. BOONE, Vice President

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JOHN E. LOVE, Secretary