

Whitman County Commissioners Meeting Minutes

089672 – Monday, January 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., the Board of Whitman County Commissioners met at the Whitman County Courthouse, 400 N Main St., Colfax, Washington, in Commissioner Chambers. Commissioner Tom Handy, Chairman, Commissioner Arthur D. Swannack, Commissioner Chad Whetzel, and Corey Mitzimberg, Clerk of the Board, attended.

Monday, January 5, 2026 – 9:00 a.m. Convened - Workshop

Attendance: Adam Turnidge, Alan Thomson, Bill Tensfeld, Brady Dean, Chris Skidmore, Chris Nelson, Craig Wines, Crystn Guenthner Elya McClintock, Heather Clark, Jacy Leach, Jessica Jensema, Joshua Vincent, Katie Claussen, Kelli Campbell, Kenneth Millar, Kristina Cooper, Sandy Jamison, Suni Richards, Wraylee Flodin, Dave Gibney, Tony S. and Zach Bavuso-Local 238

1. 089673 – The following items were discussed with no action taken:

- 2026 Commissioner Chair/Vice Chair
- RFQ-Professional Services (Structural Engineer, GEO Tech, Survey Svcs.)
- RFQ Indigent Defense Services
- IT Heating System
- Pullman Heating System
- Sheriff Medical Contract (Medical & Mental Health)
- Bidding & Procurement Training
 - SAO Finding Expected from Procurement Process
- Sheriff’s Office Budget
- IT System Outage
- Sand Kirkendahl Road-Port of Whitman Lobbyist
- Washington D.C. potential visit
- Mild Winter for Public Works Dept.
- Maintenance: Vegetation Control & Working on Signage
- Status of PW Main Shop Roof
- City of Pullman Courts Services & Lease Contracts

9:45 a.m. – Recessed

10:15 a.m. – Reconvened-Board Business

Attendance: Adam Turnidge, Alan Thomson, Bill Tensfeld, Brady Dean, Chris Nelson, Craig Wines, Elya McClintock, Heather Clark, Jacy Leach, Jessica Jensema, Joshua Vincent, Kelli Campbell, Kristina Cooper, Sandy Jamison, Suni Richards, Wraylee Flodin, Carol Black, Dave Gibney, Tony S., Whitman County Gazette and Zach Bavuso-Local 238

2. D089673 – The Flag Salute was recited.
3. D089673a – No Public Comments were received.
4. Consent Agenda for January 5-31, 2026, was approved.
 - 089674 - Approved Claims
 - Treasurer Wire Transfers & Check Reports \$ 175,220.72
 - Vouchers- \$1,956,138.53
 - 089675-089716 - Approved Personnel Change Orders
 - 089717 – The December 29, 2025, Meeting Minutes were approved

New and Old Business

5. 089718 – Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Whetzel seconded to appoint Arthur D Swannack as the 2026 Chaiman and Chad Whetzel the 2026 Vice-Chairman for the Whitman County Commissioners. Motion carried.

6. 089719 – Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Whetzel seconded to approve 2026 Boards and Committees Assignments as correct.

Discussion: Commissioner Handy requested the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee be moved to Commissioner Whetzel. Commissioner Whetzel was previously assigned to the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee also to remove the Town Gown as this group is no longer meeting. He also requested Mike Berney's name as alternate be replaced with Kathleen Stewardson, she has taken over this role with Mike Berney's retirement. Lastly to add Washington Counties Insurance Fund to his committee list. Motion carried.

6a. D089719 – Commissioner Whetzel moved, Commissioner Swannack seconded to amend the agenda to add item 12a. reappointment of Weston Kane to the Planning Committee. Motion carried

7. 089720 – Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Whetzel seconded to approve the publishing of a Notice for Small Works Roster Vendors, Contractors and Consultants. Motion carried

8. 089721 – Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Whetzel seconded to approve publishing a notice of the 2026 Board Meetings for the Martin Hall Juvenile Detention Center. Motion carried.

9. 089722 – Item 9. Approval of the 2026 County Dues has been rescheduled to the January 20, 2026 meeting.

10. 089723 – The update to the 2026 mileage will be announced and shared via email by the Administration Finance Office today.

11. 089724 – Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Whetzel seconded to approve the 2026 Signature Delegation Forms. Motion carried.

- 089652-EM & EC Department

12. 089725 - Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Whetzel seconded to reappoint Dave Gibney to the Whitman County Planning Commission for a four-year term expiring December 31, 2030. Motion carried.

12a. 089726 - Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Whetzel seconded to reappoint Weston Kane to the Whitman County Planning Commission for a four-year term expiring December 31, 2030. Motion carried.

13. 089727 - Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Whetzel seconded to approve the Emergency Declaration for the breakdown of the roof top HVAC Unit on the IT Building. Motion carried.

14. 089728 - Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Whetzel seconded to approve publishing the Notice of Public Hearing on intent to dispose of surplus County property on January 20, 2026 at 10:15 a.m. in the Commissioners Chambers. Motion carried.

15. 089729 – There were no Public Works updates shared.

16. The following correspondence was received and reviewed.

- 089730 – An online submission from Cindy Kothandaraman regarding ADA parking access at the Whitman County Courthouse.

17. 089731 – The Pending List was reviewed

18. 089732 - Approved documents were signed.

10:45 a.m. - Recessed to 11:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. - Reconvened Board Business

19. 089733 – Commissioner Swannack moved, Commissioner Whetzel seconded the motion to go into executive session until 12:00 p.m. for a collective bargaining session. Motion carried.

- Attendance: Kelli Campbell

12:00 p.m. – Returned to Open Session

12:00 p.m. – Recessed to Monday, January 12, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Monday, January 12, 2026 – 9:00 a.m. Convened - Workshop

Attendance: Adam Turnidge, Bill Tensfeld, Brandy Dean, Chris Skidmore, Chris Nelson, Craig Wines, Crystn Guenthner, Dan Hall, Dean Cornelison, Elya McClintock, Heather Clark, Jacy Leach, Jessica Jensema, Kelli Campbell, Kenneth Millar, Kristina Cooper, Mark Storey, Sandy Jamison, Scott Watson, Suni Richards, Wraylee Flodin, Dave Gibney, Gus and Tony S.

20. 089732a – Bi-Week Consent Agenda.

- Approved Claims
- 089734 - Treasurer Wire Transfers & Check Report \$213,086.31
- 089734 - Voucher Claims 384219-384353 & 384364-384370 \$875,082.95
- 089734 – Payroll Claims 384127-384134 \$670,016.87
- 089734 – Veteran Claims \$ 500.00
- 089735-089759 - Approved Personnel Change Orders \$ 2,000.00

21. D089759 – At the request of the State Auditor’s Office the Exit Conference has been rescheduled to Monday, January 26, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

22. 089760 – The following items were discussed with no action taken:

- Assessor – Appraiser III Position
- Public Health Fee Schedule 2026 Updates
- IT Storage Options
- Town of Thornton-County Owned Properties
- John Culton, Capitol Path Consulting, Presentation- Overview of Services
- LSC Meeting Summary Report
- District Court Contract, Pullman
- Health Department Remodel Projects
- EFSEC

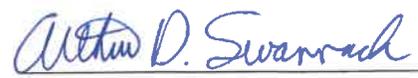
11:00 a.m. - Adjourned

Commissioner Whetzel moved to adjourn the January 5th and 12th, 2026 meetings. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Handy and carried.

The foregoing action was made today, January 20, 2026

ss/ Chad Whetzel, Commissioner
ss/ Tom Handy, Commissioner


Corey Mitzimberg, Clerk of the Board


Arthur D Swannack, Chairman
089707