

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Whitman Co. Board of Commissioners Date: Feb 19, 2019
Observer Reporting: Paul Spencer _____ Length of Meeting: 1hr 45 minutes
Members Present/Absent: _____ All 3 present
Others Present (i.e., media, public): _____ Many people including 3 from the Public
Works Department and the Secretary of the Board

The Agenda for the meeting is attached below. The items on the agenda were all approved unanimously by the three Commissioners. These were mostly routine, non-controversial items such as vacating 2 dirt roads, disposing of surplus items, notice of call for asphalt bids, and information about completion of rock crushing operations which are unlikely to be of importance to the League or its members. Item 23 concerned publishing a notice for requesting Residual and Noxious Weed No Spray applications. The notice will be something like:

Whitman County Public Works Road Department is requesting any persons in Whitman County wishing to designate a portion of a Whitman County Road right-of-way as a "**No-SPRAY**" area, please contact the Public Works Office at (509) 397-6206 for information and agreement applications. Verification and confirmation of all existing "NO-SPRAY" areas is necessary. Failure to confirm your "NO-SPRAY" area may result in that area being treated with noxious weed chemicals. The latest date to apply will be sometime in May.

The other items of great interest to many of the attendees were items 29 and 30. These were to approve the Formal Transmittal of a **Zone change application for Selway Holdings** and to set a Public meeting for the zone change hearing. This is a request for change from agriculture to light industrial zone for 3 ½ acres on Country Club Road with intent to use it for a marijuana processing plant. Even though the public hearing will be held on March 4, 2019 at 11:30 the board allowed comments from about 15 attendees which they will include in the records and consideration for the decision on the matter.

There were 4 or 5 comments in favor by the members of the business proposing the zone change and one by a co-owner of the property. The other comments were all opposed, and were from several physicians, a nurse, several WSU faculty members and other concerned citizens. All were concerned about the possible negative effects on health and the local environment including the adjacent WSU dairy which supplies milk for the Ferdinand's cheese and ice cream sales operation. Most were strongly or passionately opposed.

The Commissioners were friendly, efficient and positive in their behavior and actions as usual.