

The November 2025 meeting of the Whitman County Historical Society was held at the depot on the 20th at 7:00. Members present included Mark Clinton, Jeff Pietila, Jon Anderson (via Zoom), Linda Hackbarth, and Denise Mahnkey. Also present was Executive Director, Val Gregory.

- Since there was no quorum present, the meeting was informational only. No votes or other action was taken.

Depot quarterly meeting:

- Prior to the meeting the board received an informational report from the depot rail car committee regarding the status of the rail cars refurbishment project, and the current shut down of work for the winter months.
- Linda expressed concerns about the different balances between the depot's and the WCHS's accounting balances.
- Linda also asked questions regarding the society's 5% for administrative costs. Linda was of the belief that this only was on donations and not on grants. Jeff said that he believed the exemption was only for those grants that expressly state that none of the award could go for administrative expenses, The board directed the Executive Director to find the appropriate minutes and board policy, and to report at the next meeting.

Board meeting:

- The board received three guests who would like to partner with the society to clean and preserve the Coleman Cemetery. The Coleman group would like to use the society's 501 C 3 status as a fiscal agent as they fund raise for their project. Jeff's suggested that this would be an appropriate time to hold an e-mail vote on the proposal. Val said that she could get one out. Jon said that if the proposal passes, the society and the Coleman group will need to sign a fiscal sponsorship agreement.
- Discussion was held on the new signage for the archives. Val reminded the group that if the cost was less than \$500.00 no prior approval is necessary. It was also shared that the Genealogical will be paying a portion of the costs, and that the Genealogical Society and Archives will be holding a joint open house on Sunday, December 7th from 11:45a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
- There was no new information regarding the possibility of joining a pool of non-profit organizations in the area. Mark will follow up with e-mails and phone calls regarding this possibility.
- Election of officers for 2026 was delayed until the December meeting.

Action items:

Prior to the next meeting these items are to be completed and readied for reporting:

- Electronic vote on the Coleman Cemetery Proposal Val

Electronic vote was sent out on 11/24/25. Jeff made a motion to accept the proposal with a signed contract, including the 5% for administrative costs. Janet seconded the motion. Proposal was approved.

- Review of the minutes and policy on 5% for admin costs Val
- Information regarding a possible non-profit insurance pool Mark

The meeting closed at 7:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

December 17th via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Pietila