

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 18, 2014

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 1:00pm in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman George Schrumpf, Vice Chair Don Amber and Tom Rethlake. County Attorney Dan Sigler was absent. Auditor Jennifer McGuire, County Coordinator-Pam Smith, Cathy Broxon-Ball, Michael Barton, Barry Yeakle, Ralph Bailey, Shannon Langmaid, Craig Wagner and Joan Null.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the pledge.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY HIGHWAY: Michael Barton, Highway Director, gave a list of the milled roads over the last four years. The map was broken down by townships and color coded for the year each road was completed. This map is kept at the Highway department and available for the public to view anytime they wish. Barton will get a map of the 2014 projects for the Summer road milling project. Discussion on flooding with all the snow when the weather warms up, working with the EMA for flooding issues that arise throughout the County to be proactive. Commissioner Rethlake wants the route for the Veteran's marathon reviewed for any large pot holes. Commissioner Amber questioned the wings on the plows and if that would help for the corners at intersections. Commissioner Schrumpf wanted to give a "Thank You" to Matt Adams for taking him on a ride along to get an experience of what all is involved in plowing the County roadways. Also discussed were the plows will continue to work but only during daylight hours for the safety of the drivers, wipers for the plow trucks for better visibility and strobe lighting on the back of the truck beds for a safety precaution.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2014 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: The County Commissioners reviewed an Amended 2014 Holiday Schedule allowing any Full-time personnel that worked during the Snow Emergency on the dates of January 6 & 7, 2014 an extra Holiday. This Emergency Holiday must be approved by the Supervisor, noted on the Time Sheet and taken within the next six months and as a complete day off of work for the individual. This was done in appreciation for the workers during the storm. A motion by Rethlake to allow the Amended Holiday Schedule, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF AN UNSAFE BUILDING: Craig Wagner, Planning & Building, updated the Commissioners on the Unsafe Building located at 7944 S and 350 West, South Whitley. The adjoining neighbor of the property has contacted the owner and wants to purchase the property. They will pay the outstanding taxes on the property and has an excavator lined up to demolish the building and removed the debris. At this time they are doing title work on the property to look for any liens. Wagner also reviewed the progress for the Archer property located at Tri-lakes. There is a dumpster at the location and guttering has been installed.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Minutes from the February 3, 2014 Commissioner's meeting were reviewed, Rethlake made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The disbursement of claims reports for February 18, 2014 was reviewed by the Commissioners. After discussion on some of the claims, a motion to allow the claims was made by Amber seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2014 TAX RATES: Auditor McGuire distributed the 2014 Tax Rates for Whitley County. All the Tax Districts rates went down but two, Columbia City and Columbia City/Union for 2014 compared to 2013 rates. The actual Whitley County portion of the rates went down .0015%. The reason for this decrease was the increase the Assessed Values throughout the County for 2014. Contributing factors for the Assessment increase are Abatements falling off, removal of ineligible Homesteads and new construction for 2013. The rates will be advertised in local papers the last three Wednesdays of March with actual bills being sent out the first part of April.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR: Pam Smith, County Coordinator, worked with AT&T for a different cell phone package for the County. The decrease in the monthly billing will be around \$500. For now the Commissioner are going to remain with AT&T as the County cell phone provider and allow stipends if necessary. Two requests to use County Facilities were presented. The first one was from Barry Yeakle for the Leatherneck Coffee Club for Sunday May 25, 2014 from 7-9pm on the Courthouse Lawn for a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Amber made a motion to allow the use, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second request was from the Columbia City Main Street Association for five different dates. A request for June

21,2014 to have the return of the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament from 6am to 12 noon and four requests for the dates of Saturday July 19 & 26 and Aug 2 & 16 for outdoor concerts on the Courthouse lawn. After discussion of the electricity ok'd with the Maintenance department a motion by Rethlake to allow, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY: The January intake report was reviewed by the Commissioners from the Humane Society. It was determined not to pay the appropriation of the \$25,000 by these reports but to pay the amount Quarterly to the shelter. So the amount of \$6250 will be paid in January, April, July and October. The Profit & Loss Statements will still be requested by the Commissioners to review.


IN THE MATTER OF A UTILITY PERMIT: A Utility Permit from CenturyLink for the placement of buried cable on Washington Road north of Keiser Road for a length of 328 feet for service and plant improvements. A motion by Amber to approve, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

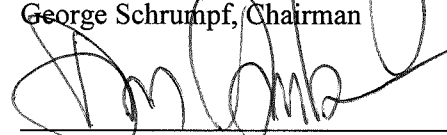
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONER UPDATES: Commissioner Rethlake is working with the Community Corrections building for a backup generator. The equipment is expensive so may a Lease with option to buy will have to be reviewed. Discussion on the procedure to evacuate the Corrections facility for an Emergency, where the clients would be housed and thinks a Policy needs to be determined ahead of time in writing. EMA Director Cathy Broxon-Ball will work with Paula Worden to come up with a Policy. Jail Inspections and Community Correction building were done last week by the State. The remaining siding will be installed this Spring. Commissioner Amber had four issues with respect to the IT Contract being determined. Also the semi-trucks still using the County Roads will be addressed on 800 S. Commissioner Schrumpf is working on the County Contract with Advanced Imaging to standardize printers, remove any printing devices not being used and eliminate overages by department for printing.

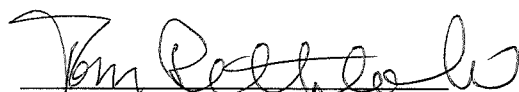
IN OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Schrumpf is still reviewing IT options for the County with different vendors. Ralph Bailey complimented the Commissioners for all the work they do to keep the public knowledgeable on what is going on throughout the County. Cathy Broxon-Ball from EMA has picked up 12,000 sandbags and will be contacting Community Corrections to start getting them filled for any flooding issues that arise throughout the County.

With no further input from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schrumpf, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


Tom Rethlake

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor