

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**January 18, 2011**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Tom Rethlake, Vice Chairman Don Amber and George Schrumpf. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Jen McGuire, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, County Attorney Dan Sigler, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, County Engineer Brandon Forrester, Dave Sewell, Otto Boschet, Phil Smith, GIS- Dan Weigold, Mark Mynhier, Jody Hollenbaugh, Jamie Linski, Jan Andersen, John Doster, Matthew Thomes, Tara Thomes, Scott Hill, Janice Friedmeyer, LeAnna Andreas, Mike Dear, Gene Heckman, Susan Meyers, Ed Meyers, Nancy Prickett, WC Treasurer Lisa Richmond, Tim Rushenburg-SRI, Jim Hughes- SRI, WC Council Kim Wheeler and various Department Heads . Chairman Rethlake called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT:** Dan Sigler presented the Contract for Metal Traders to the Commissioners with his approval to move forward with it. Dan made the Commissioners aware that Nipsco was suing Whitley County for the digging complaint and that he would be taking care of any court hearings for the County. In other business Dan has been receiving information in regards to the Wind Energy and wanted to know what direction he needed to take at this time and how much time the Commissioners wanted him to spend on it. After discussion and letting Mr. Sigler know that the Redevelopment had also hired an attorney for the Wind Energy litigation and Comprehensive Plan that he would just keep a file on the subject for now.

**IN THE MATTER OF EASEMENT ON EAST WILCKEN RD:** Susan and Ed Meyers come before the Commissioners to get advice in what they needed to do next for an easement off of Wilcken Rd. Adjacent property owners had been notified and were not approving of the changes that it would create on the easement. After discussion from both sides Attorney Dan Sigler let the Meyers know that it was not the County Commissioner's agenda to be involved and volunteered his time for some litigation between all parties to resolve the matter between property owners.

**IN THE MATTER OF SEX OFFENDER'S LIMITATIONS:** Dan Weigold GIS Coordinator came before the Commissioners to describe the new layer on GIS that is being used in coordination with the Sheriff's department to show where sex offenders could live within the county. The information will be available on the Whitley County website, Dan will work with Jody Hollenbaugh from the Sheriff's department for information and monthly updates and Attorney Dan Sigler will supply a disclaimer for the website.

**IN THE MATTER OF DRUG FREE INDIANA:** Nancy Prickett representative from D-FI presented the Commissioners with the disbursements of funds \$45,000 for the 2011 and asking the Commissioners for their approval. After reviewing the spreadsheets a motion was made by Rethlake with a second by Schrumpf for disbursements and carried 3/0. Information will be presented to the County Council in the February meeting.

**IN THE MATTER OF HORSE-DRAWN VEHICLES:** With the elimination of township assessors it was brought before the Commissioners who were responsible for the sale of horse-drawn buggy plates for the 2011 tax year. After discussion a motion was made by Amber to have the plates sold through the County Assessor's office and a second by Schrumpf motion carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF SRI:** Present from SRI was Tim Rushenburg and Jim Hughes to discuss with the Commissioners a way to sell the properties from the last two Tax Sales that did not get sold. They gave the Commissioners a brief overview of all the options and what would best fit the needs of Whitley County after discussion a motion was made to have a Certificate Sale by Amber seconded by Schrumpf and approved with a 3/0 vote. More information will be put on the Whitley County website. Also presented by SRI was the Homestead Verification Contract that will capture taxpayers in Whitley County that could possibly be filing duplicate Homestead in the state of Indiana. A motion was made by Amber to review the Contract, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote pending approval by the county attorney.

**AT THIS TIME THE COMMISSIONER MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AND THE WHITLEY COUNTY BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING WAS STARTED:**

**IN THE MATTER OF PRIOR FINANCE MEETING:** Minutes were approved from the January 19, 2010 motion made by Rethlake and a second from Amber. Discussion that the officers for the

Board of Finance remain the same for 2011 and Lisa Richmond remain the Treasurer motion made by Schrumpf and seconded by Rethlake carried with a 3/0. Review of the Investment Policy was reviewed with discussion on the return on investments and interest earned with Treasurer Richmond. At this time the Policy will remain the same, motion made by Rethlake and seconded by Schrumpf carried with a 3/0 vote. A request that a copy of the investments and interest get distributed to the County Council members for review. Finance Meeting adjourned.

**AT 2:30 PM THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING RECONVENED:**

**IN THE MATTER COUNTY COORDINATOR:** Amy Crickmore gave a description of how they were going to Spotlight each department on the County Website each month.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Two semi-annual reports, one from the Churubusco Childcare and one from the Whitley County Council on Aging were presented to the Commissioner’s for approval, a motion was given by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber carried 3/0 for approval to sign. The Metal Traders Contract previously approved by the county attorney was presented, a motion by Schrumpf seconded by Amber for the approval carried 3/0 for signatures. Commissioner Rethlake gave an overview of the IDEM issue at Solid Waste, EMS building being located at the new Whitley Parkview Hospital, Hively Cemetery in Thorncreek township on 50 W excess land being deeded to the adjoining property owner and went over the maintenance list and updated on the sewer pipes for the Courthouse.

**IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENT HEADS:** The Commissioners requested a short meeting with all the department heads to go over better customer service from all the offices when intervening with the public. They also want to keep better communication in the chain of command from approval from the Commissioners to the Council. Commissioner Rethlake wanted to thank all the departments for the outstanding service. In March a schedule will be distributed from the county coordinator for each department head to meet with the Commissioners for a short 4-5 minute conference to review job evaluations on each employee along with job descriptions that have been updated. The commissioners also want a County goal and objective from the department heads that they want to achieve in the 2011 year. Rethlake also let the departments know that any contract entered into by the county will need a two week review before being signed, because all contracts will be reviewed by the county attorney for approval.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Tom Rethlake, Chairman

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Don Amber, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
George Schrumpf

Attest:\_\_\_\_\_