

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 8, 2011

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 8, 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, Otto Boschet, Phil Smith, Brandon Forrester WC Engineer, Mark Hodges WC Sheriff, Marsha Craney GAI, Mitch Hansel GAI, Gene Heckman Thorncreek trustee, Mike Dear Leadership Whitley County, Dan Weigold WC – GIS Dept, Alan Tio – EDC, scheduled Department Heads. Rethlake called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Dan Sigler gave approval for the Micropulse Bond Ordinance #2011-03 explained to the Commissioners, that Micropulse will be paying the bonds, but going through the county for lower interest rates a motion to approve Ordinance #2011-03 for Bonds was made by Schrumpf seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. Amended Horse Drawn Vehicle Ordinance #2011-02 was presented for final approval a motion was made by Amber seconded by Schrumpf and carried 3/0 to allow the changes to the Auditor's office for payment and deadline of payment. Dan also let the Commissioner know that he had court tomorrow for the dispute with Nipsco, Commissioners still want to in force the stop work order until an agreement with Nipsco is finalized. Dan notified the Commissioners he had received a letter from IDEM that the clean up was complete at the Highway and was drafting a letter to give to the city of this approval.

IN THE MATTER DISPOSING OF PROPERTY: Sheriff Hodges came before the Commissioners to ask for permission to sell five bikes at the Sheriff's department. According to statute and the SBOA anything under the value of \$5,000 could be sold with Commissioners authorization. A motion was made by Amber to allow this sale of property, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION: Alan Tio brought two Agreements for approval from the Commissioners. First was the final Agreement with Novae in which the county is removing penalties from the delinquent tax to help with incentives for the sale of the property, a motion was made by Schrumpf seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote for approval on the Agreement with Novae. Second agreement brought before the Commissioners was monies granted to Sailrite Enterprises, Inc promoting economic development in Whitley County in increments of \$25,000 to move to vacant building, retaining job and creating new jobs within the County for a total of \$75,000. A motion to approve the Sailrite Agreement was made by Amber seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY SIGN INVENTORY: Representatives from GAI Marsha Craney and Mitch Hansel worked with Michael Barton to explain to the Commissioners the new Federal Mandated changes to all the county signs that will be implemented by 1/1/2012. GAI is going to work with county to apply for grants. The first grant will be \$50,000 to help with the Sign Inventory that will cost the county \$5,000 and the second grant is for replacing the signs that do not meet the new guidelines that is for \$100,000 and will cost the county \$10,000. The grant deadline is March 18, 2011 approval to proceed with the Grant application with GAI was made by George seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. In further discussion the Commissioners wanted to know about the work currently being done by Dan Weigold Whitley County GIS Coordinator and the employee from the Highway department and if any reimbursement for the work already completed on the project at this time could be paid by the Grant. Mitch from GAI also notified the Commissioners of a Grant available for County Line Rd up to the Arcola Rd for \$1-2 million, maybe the remaining funds could be split with Allen County. At this time the Commissions want to table the request.

IN THE MATTER OF WHITLEY COUNTY DETOURS: Michael Barton from the Highway came before the Commissioners for approval on to detours that needed to be implemented for road work to begin. The first was a detour on State Rd #114 using 700 East a motion was made by Amber seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote to allow detour. The second detour was for the Smith Drain on Lincolnway using 650 W and a motion was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried approval with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF PLANNING AND BUILDING FEES: Dave Sewell came before the Commissioners again to update them on the approval from the City County meeting and that Columbia City had no problems with the changes Planning and Building were making to the fees. A motion was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote to allow the

changes to the fees and make the effective date April 1, 2011. The notification will be advertised in the paper before that date. Dave gave a quick update on the Comprehensive Plan Draft D and when the next meeting of the Public Hearing will be Tuesday March 15, 2011.

IN THE MATTER OF AGA INSURANCE: Chad Burch, Erin Martin and Patton Cox gave the Commissioners a Interim Report on the

IN THE MATTER APPOINTMENT TO THE WHITLEY COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD: Mike Schrader has accepted the request for appointment as a three year member of the Drainage Board, a motion made to approve appointment was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote for the three year appointment.

IN THE MATTER HEALTH PLAN FOR INMATES: The HPL contract approved by Attorney Sigler for Sheriff Hodges was presented for signatures a motion to sign by Amber seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote and signed by all three Commissioners for approval.

IN THE MATTER PERF CONSULTANT FOR THE COUNTY: Auditor Jen McGuire presented the Commissioners a Resolution from the State appointing her as the consultant for the County in regards to PERF (Public Employee Retirement Fund). A motion was made by Amber to sign and approve the Resolution, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEWING BYLAWS FOR PARKVIEW : Documentation from Sept of 2010 was given to the Commissioners from Judge Heuer who is on the Parkview Board for some bylaw changes. Chairman Rethlake wants it sent over to Attorney Sigler for review at this time.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Brief discussion from Commissioner Amber in regards to the EMS reports that come to them if more information can be seen on the expenses. Also Amber reported on the township lobbyist and the changes in legislation. Commissioner Rethlake spoke on a request from the Circuit Court for installation of a new phone line in the Circuit Court for \$259.00, a motion will have to be brought before Council for approval in their next meeting to pay out of Cum Cap. Rethlake let everyone know the County Newsletter was looked over for approval. Department Heads will come before the Commissioners in March make sure all the times were confirmed. Michael Barton, Highway Engineer gave some feed back on the last Snow Emergency. Mr. Barton also asked for approval from the Commissioners to attend the Southeastern Heavy Equipment show in Las Vegas, a motion was made by Amber to approve, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote for Michael to attend the conference. Brandon Forrester spoke in regards to the sound system in the lower level of the Government Center rooms A and B that the last meeting they could not hear in the back and he actually purchased some connectors to help correct the problem but it still needed looked at. A motion to reimburse Brandon for the Radio Shack purchase and to have someone from the outside come check out the sound system was made by Schrumpf seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tom Rethlake, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

George Schrumpf

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor