

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
March 21, 2011

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 21, 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 Jen McGuire, Amy Crickmore, Dan Sigler, Phil Smith, Brandon Forrester, Tim Rushenburg, Gene Heckman, Dave Sewell, Scott Wagner, Stanley Crum, Joan Hull, Donna Bowers, Dr. Lisa Hatcher, Dani Tippmann, September McConnell, John LeFever, Marc Gatton, Alan Tio – EDC, scheduled Department Heads.

Rethlake called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

IN THE MATTER MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Minutes from the prior March 7, 2011 meeting were reviewed a motion to approve them by Amber, seconded from Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Claims were reviewed with some questions raised on the expenses in Community Correction in regards to the Vending Machine items and how it was being funded, after discussion a motion to approve claims was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF WALK IN COOLER AT JAIL: Marc Gatton was present to report to the Commissioners that the jail walk in cooler had been given a Warning from the County Health Department because of the rust on the flooring. Five bids were submitted, they were going with Environmental Panel Systems to complete the project and the monies will come out of the Jail Equipment Repair and Maintenance fund location.

IN THE MATTER OF INVOICE SAMPLING TEST: Commissioner Rethlake presented a bill for the Phase II sampling from Arcadis in the amount of \$8,855.45 for the testing of the soils at the Highway Department that were contaminated. After discussion a motion was made to request the Council to pay the bill out of the County's Rainy Day Fund by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote to present to Council for final approval of payment from Rainy Day.

IN THE MATTER OF NIPSCO UTILITY PERMIT: Auditor McGuire presented a Utility Permit from Nipsco that has been approved by Brandon Forrester, for the Commissioner's to sign, at this time the Permit will be tabled, a motion by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a vote of 3/0 that they are not signing while in litigation with them .

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER CERTIFICATE SALE: Tim Rushenburg from SRI Incorporated was here to finish up the paperwork and field any questions in regards to upcoming Commissioner Certificate Sale. A calendar of events was given of the time line of events before the actual sale, advertising, notifications and dates of publications. Resolution #2011-04 to proceed with the Certificate Sales was passed and signed for approval. Also discussed was updating on the Homestead Verification process in the Auditor's office and that notices of any duplication have went out to property owners. Auditor McGuire informed the Commissioners that the County was wanting to retain SRI for the annual Tax Sales and that the contract was Dan Sigler's office for approval.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR: Amy Crickmore reported that she had three request for use of County buildings. The first was from the Compassionate Friends on August 13, 2011 for the Walk to Remember, a motion to approved was given by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried for approval with a 3/0 vote. Second was a Day of Prayer for the use of the Gazebo on May 5, 2011 from 5 to 8 pm, a motion to approved was given by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Third was the request to use the Government Center for a Voting location on the primary election May 3, 2011 and the general election November 8, 2011, a motion was made by Schrumpf , seconded by Amber and carried for approval with a 3/0 vote. Amy also reported that she was contacted from Rick Updike in regards to the Supervisor Training classes, she will check with the Sheriff's department about splitting the cost of the class and get back with a date.

IN THE MATTER REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY: Dan Sigler brought some final paperwork that needed signatures for the Micropulse Bonds. Brief discussion in regards to the information that Commissioner Schrumpf had given him on the moratorium and changes to the use of land and zoning approvals and how it pertained to County ordinances. Commissioner Rethlake made Dan aware that he would be contacted by Bowing Engineering in regards to the cleanup at the Highway and that the City attorney Marsha McNagney was working on the cost of the project.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY INSURANCE: John LeFever was here from Star Insurance to present the Commissioner with information on the County insurance. He briefly went over the coverage on all the different county buildings and locations. John let the Commissioners know that

the insurance Underwriters had changed to Travelers. Explained the values of buildings certified to us from an outside appraiser. John told the Commissioners that the limits for General Liability Coverage was maintained by State Statues. The other subjects covered were Crime Coverage, Electronic Equipment, Commercial Automobile and how the cost was maintained by a fleet rate, and Workers Compensation Coverage.

IN THE MATTER OF EMS FUND: September McConnell was here from the Whitley County Community Foundation to update the Commissioners on the funds being maintained at the Foundation for the use of funding the County EMS. Brief discussion on what the current balance was, how the account was making money. September gave a report of all the expenses that were paid out of the account in the past years, mainly for the purchase of ambulances, other equipment listed were defibrillators, radios, computer and repairs. Discussion on using the funds as in the operating budgets and that was not the purpose intended for these funds, and all approval had to be through the Committee of expenses that could be paid.

IN THE MATTER OF WHITLEY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Dave Sewell was present to get final approval for the Resolution #2011-03 adopting the Whitley County Comprehensive Plan a motion was made by Amber to approve, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. A huge “thank you” went out to Dave and his staff for completing this project that was started in December of 2009, the previous Plan was from 1993. Dave also came before the Commissioners for the signing of the Agreement with the Consultants Ground Rules, Inc. After discussion of the project and forming a committee of nine members, three pro, three con and three county officials to process concerns and guidance on the wind farm project a motion was made for approval to sign was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0. Alan Tio was here backing the work with the consultant on the Wind Farms and reminding everyone of the Community Discussion at ISMS on March 23, 2011 that EDC was sponsoring.

IN THE MATTER OF WORKFORCE AGREEMENT: Alan Tio and Commissioner Rethlake had met earlier in the day with Workforce and what there involvement was going to be here in Whitley County. Alan spoke briefly on the program and that it was a Regional project from the Department of Labor funded by Federal money for the improvement of hiring and training, After reviewing the agreement a motion to sign the “County Local Official Agreement” on behalf of Whitley County was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE: Scott Wagner from the Health Department was present and informed the Commissioners that eight installers were called in regards to proposed changes for the sewage disposal to meet requirements by the State, might effect perimeter drainage at a later date to regulate septic systems. The Ordinance #2011-04 was reviewed and approved by the Commissioners, motion by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber and carried 3/0. After advertising the Ordinance will be put into effect for the County.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Gene Heckman, Thorncreek trustee wanted some kind of “Gentleman’s Agreement” about the mowing and maintaining of shrubs at the County park by the township. A motion was made by Amber seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Rethlake let everyone know there will be two school groups visiting our facilities in April for County Government month. The second group of Department Heads met with the Commissioners to discuss job descriptions, changes or needs in their offices and any large purchases that they will be needing in the next year.

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