

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**May 16, 2011**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 16, 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, Stanley Crum, Michael Barton, Lisa Richmond, Gene Heckman, Otto Boschet and Patti Smith, Beam Longest & Neff.

Rethlake called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Pledge the Allegiance was done.

**IN THE MATTER COUNTY ATTORNEY:** Dan Sigler reported on a Torte Claim for an arrest at the Jail to the Commissioners. Dan let the Commissioners know that he needed more information to complete the Mowing Contract between the County and Thorncreek for the exchange of storing equipment at the location and that no monies would be exchanging hands. Gene Heckman, Thorncreek trustee was present and will meet with Dan after the meeting to discuss further issues and come to agreement to complete the Contract for signatures next meeting. Auditor McGuire had been advised to contact the County Attorney by the State Board of Account regarding Franchise Fees that are collected by the County from different vendors and if the monies should be kept separate from the General Account, Dan will look into the Indiana Code and see if a different Fund needs to be established in the future. Commissioner Schrumpf gave Dan a copy of open complaints filed with the Health Department. Future action needs taken from his office on the different matters. Dan said that he and Scott Wagner need to have a meeting to see where some of the complaints set at this time and what action has been taken.

**IN THE MATTER SPRING TAX COLLECTION:** Lisa Richmond from the Treasurer's office was present to let the Commissioner's know that the Spring Tax collection went smoothly and that the percentage of tax collection sat at 95% for Whitley County accounting for around eleven million dollars.

**IN THE MATTER PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes from the regular May 2, 2011 meeting were reviewed and a motion made by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber for approval and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Minutes from the Special Meeting on May 5, 2011 were discussed a last name of Charles Acheson a person in attendance needed corrected and all the reference in the Emergency Management System- EMS discussion was changed to reflect "ambulance" instead of the "EMS" when in regards to the purchase of the vehicle between the County and Parkview for future reference. After notes of the corrections a motions was given by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 2/1 vote with Amber abstaining.

**IN THE MATTER HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Michael Barton from the Highway presented the Commissioner's with the annual report from the board of review and requested signatures from the Commissioner's. Michael thanked the Commissioner's for attending the Public Meeting last week for the Highway Department and discussed most of the complaints and questions were in regards to completion of milled roads and dust issues. Commissioner Schrumpf questioned Michael on the completion date for the Grant on the State mandated change for all the signs in the County. He will check on the work being done in house and what it needs to be completed, \$90,000 will cover almost the entire cost for replacing all the signs needed to meet the qualifications from the State Mandate which will come from the Grant. Commissioner Rethlake requested a price quote for the County to repave the section of Road on 600 from St Rd #30 to the new Rail Connect Park and present it to the Redevelopment Commission.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR:** Amy Crickmore reported that she has a college student Chelsea Beam, that wants to do internship in her office for the Summer. There will be no cost to the County for her service. Amy passed out Thank You Letters for signatures from the Commissioners for the businesses they toured last week. Also a letter in support for the Senior Housing Project was signed by Commissioner Rethlake.

**IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMITS:** Two permits from Frontier were brought before the Commissioner's for approval. The first one being on County Road 25E, a motion for approval was made by Schrumpf, with a second from Amber stipulating one of the copies actually needed signed by the Frontier representative and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second permit was for some work on North Blue Lake Road, a motion was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS:** Review of the Claims for the County, Commissioner Amber requested more information on the claim to Parkview Whitley done in the Special Run on May 2, 2011 out of the Drug Task Force monies. Question was brought up on the maintenance of County vehicles done at different garages throughout the city and if some of that work could not be done at the County garage. Commissioner Amber did not feel the Highway garage was set up for maintenance to normal passenger cars only the heavier equipment. A motion to approve claims was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote for approval.

**IN THE MATTER OF INDIANA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WORK:** Mike Prentice from the Indiana Geological Survey reported to the Commissioners on the work that has been done in Whitley County in 2010 and 2011. He updated them on the mapping of the surficial geology and all the bore sights throughout the County gave the Commissioners an updated map to show the different locations. The information will be passed on to the GIS department. All the mapping is funded 50/50 between the Federal and State and the completed project for Whitley County should be done sometime in 2012.

**IN OTHER MATTERS:** Commissioner Rethlake reported that he had spoken with John Lefever from Star Insurance and the umbrella for the County on policy changed from two million to one million with Travelers. Rethlake also shared with the other Commissioner’s the Thank you letter from the Whitko third grade class that had toured the County Building in April. Auditor McGuire reported the cost of Tri-Lakes Regional Sewer District on a monthly basis and questioned if the building was going to be tore down and if the sewer could be capped off. More information will have to be gathered on this decision and the condition of the building needs looked into. Also discussed was the twenty acre jurisdiction for the Health Department on complaints for Junk and Trash Ordinance now implemented and if that acreage restriction could be increased or eliminated. More information needs given on this before any changes can be made.

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