

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
July 18, 2011

The Whitley County Council and Whitley County Commissioners met in a special joint session on Monday, July 18, 2011 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Vice Chairman John Barrett, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, Tom Western, Paula Reimers and William Overdeer, Chairman Kim Wheeler was absent. Commissioners in attendance were Tom Rethlake, Don Amber and George Schrumpf. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Sandy Trimmer, Charles Acheson, Donna Bowers, Mike Barton, James Thomlison, Otto Boschet, Chelsea Behm, Lisa Peppler, Duane Ginder, Scott Gabriel, Rick Beemen, Calvin Dunfee, Kathy Shively, Bob Amber, Gene Heckman, Mark Hodges, Matt Rentschler, Patty Cook, Tony Casto, Dave Sewell, Phil Smith and Scott Wagner

Commissioner Rethlake called the Commissioner meeting to order. Vice Council Chairman John Barrett called the Council meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER EMS DECISION: Chairman Rethlake started the meeting by stating that there were still questions regarding the contract between Whitley County and Parkview Hospital. The first question that was brought forward was if the dispatching for the ambulances was going to be regionalized outside of the County. Scott Gabriel stated at this time there were not going to be any changes to the way dispatching is done. Other matters discussed were the locations where the ambulances were going to be housed, number of paramedics available to service the county, ownership of the equipment if the contract is terminated and how many members the Oversight Committee should contain for decisions regarding the contract.

The number of members for the Oversight Committee to oversee the contractual compliance was discussed from ten members down to only five members. If the contract is terminated that all equipment will be returned to the County at that time. Parkview can not reassign the contract to a different entity if they are acquired by another health care provider. Both the County members and hospital representatives fielded questions from the public with their concerns and comments regarding the decision.

A motion was made by Schrumpf to amend his original motion to Option #2 for the five year contract, with the lease of equipment, payments semi annually, staffing of three paramedics at all times and keep service in South Whitley and Churubusco, with no second the motion carried with a 2/1 vote from the Commissioners, with Amber voting the nay. Overdeer from the Council made a motion to approve the amendments for Option #2, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/3 decision with the nay votes from Barrett, Bayman and LaRue to fund the change with no approval from the Council for funding the vote went back to the Option #1 first approved in May for the five year contract with the Hospital.

After the decision by the Commissioners, Chairman Rethlake went with the original motion in funding the Parkview contract for five years for the EMS at \$300,000 with annual increases of \$10,000, continuing the \$1.00 lease for the new building, having a committee in place to oversee the funding and contractual compliance and the purchase of a new ambulance will rotate each year between the County and Parkview, all the insurance coverage and maintenance will be paid for by the County.

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

At this time the Commissioner's continued with the scheduled Commissioner's meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF THE GOLF CART ORDINANCE: Attorney Dan Sigler presented the Commissioner's with the County Golf Cart Ordinance. Discussion on the one time permit fee of \$25.00, where the money would be paid to is the Sheriff's department when the cart is inspected. The hours of operation was changed to read from dusk to dawn to accommodate the different seasons. Attorney Sigler will make the changes and present the Ordinance for signature at the next meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF PAY OUT FOR OVERTIME: Matt Rentschler came before the Commissioners for the decision on the pay out of overtime for an employee of the Title IV office. A motion was made by Amber to pay the wages from the IV-D Incentive funds, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote for approval.

IN THE MATTER OF SHOOTING RANGE: Sheriff Hodges came before the Commissioner’s again requesting \$10,000 to complete a phase in the shooting range that is being completed on Hiler Road in Whitley County. Sheriff Hodges and Lt. Casto from the Indiana State Police had made this request in the July 5, 2011 meeting that was tabled so the Commissioner could look into the permit and zoning that was done back in March of 2006. Dave Sewell from Building and Planning had been contacted and everything for the shooting range was still valid for construction of the project. After discussion, the Commissioners let Sheriff Hodges know they were not against funding the project but unsure of taking the monies out of CEDIT to fund the project. A motion to provide the funds was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote to check with the Council for funding the project out of Rainy Day.

IN THE MATTER OF REDISTRICTING ORDINANCE: Debbie Beers from the Clerks office presented maps for the redistricting done by the State. A motion was made by Amber to accept the changes and sign the notice to County Commissioners of errors within precinct boundaries, seconded by Schrumpf and carried for approval with a 3/0 vote. Clerk Beers also requested a change to her office for a better flow of absentee voters before the 2012 Presidential election, Commissioner Amber will work with Denny Fenker to check if possible for a additional doorway.

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE CHANGE: Scott Wagner came before the Commissioners to request a change to Ordinance 2005-10 for Junk and Trash, requesting that Sec 53.03 be eliminated so the parcel size of twenty acres or larger is not covered by the ordinance. Wagner showed the Commissioner’s a list of fifteen properties that now fit within this category that he cannot implement the ordinance because of this restriction. Discussion on why the acreage was put in the ordinance to cover farmers and equipment, one man’s trash is another man’s treasure. With no motion to change the ordinance, no further changes will be made at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Michael Barton gave an update on the road improvements being completed on 450E and Riley Road, all the work should be completed in the next three to four weeks. Discussion for the speed limit change on 300 N to 30 mph, Barton will get a study started in the next 10 days to look at the area and get back with his findings.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR: Amy Crickmore presented a request from Circuit Court for annual recording maintenance fee charges to be paid out of the Commissioner’s budget for the amount of \$1567. A motion to allow the charges was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Auditor McGuire will check on the 2012 budget and adjust the change to accommodate the charges if they are incurred annual for the maintenance.

IN OTHER MATTERS: Commissioner Amber is still working on the study for more fuel efficient cars for the different departments outside the Sheriff’s department. Commissioner Rethlake is working with EDC on broadband internet service. Check on liability insurance for coverage at the Samaritan Park. Set up with Jim Becher for some training with the podium so it can be used with the screens for meeting. A motion to approve the minutes from the July 5, 2011 meeting was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. A motion to approve claims for July 18, 2011 was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. A permit from Frontier for a bore under Anderson Road was presented, a motion to sign and approve was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 votes.

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