

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
October 17, 2011

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, October 17, 2011 in the Churubusco High School Auditorium located in the town of Churubusco, IN. Commissioners in attendance were Tom Rethlake, Don Amber and George Schrumpf. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Dan Sigler, Katie Wagner, Otto Boschet Jr, James Thomlison- Post & Mail, Mark Hodges – Sheriff, Dave Sewell, Michael Barton, Tim Blake, Joe Coffelt, Keith Coffelt, Frank Kessler, John Barrett, Bill Overdeer, Gary Smith, Churubusco Government Class.

Commissioner Rethlake called the Commissioner meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY ATTORNEY: Dan Sigler, County Attorney, spoke on behalf of the amendment for the Correctional Healthcare contract. The only changes were the corporate name from Health Professionals to Correctional Healthcare Companies, Inc and the premiums will have an increase of 2%. Sigler gave his recommendation that these two changes were ok for the contract to be signed by the Commissioners. Sigler also passed out three drafts to the Commissioner's for submission of the new EMS Agreement with Parkview Whitley. Attorney Sigler had cleaned up the language, added the changes requested for coverage of paramedics per shift and coverage of over all county from Churubusco to South Whitley. Whitley County will still be operating under the old Agreement until the new year.

IN THE MATTER ZONING CHANGES: Dave Sewell from Planning & Building Department was present to discuss a request for rezoning in Smith township. The request was for ten acres to be changed from Agricultural district to IPM Industrial Park/Manufacturing District on the north side of Cider Mill Road just west of St Road #205, the request was property owned by Joseph & Keith Coffelt for a propane distribution business. The request was given a **favorable recommendation** by the Plan Commission but for only 2.748 acres instead of the entire 10.0 acres. After discussion of the driveway a motion to approve the rezoning was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried for approval with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER MINUTES & CLAIMS: Two grammar errors were noted for the Minutes of the October 3, 2011 Commissioner meeting. After noting the corrections, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Executive Session October 3, 2011 and Minutes from the Commissioner's meeting October 3, 2011, seconded by Amber and carried 3/0. After discussion of the claims, Amber made a motion to approve claims for disbursement on October 17, 2011, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

At this time Commissioner Rethlake fielded questions from the attending Government Students. Most of the questions and concerns were about the condition of the roads in Whitley County. Anything was asked from flooding issues, snow removal, ditches and guard rails. Michael Barton from the Highway answered some of the questions, but due to time will remark to the questions in writing back to the students at a later time. Other questions asked were the benefits of being a Commissioner, participation in local government, voting, wages and wind turbines. The students were given the County website address and a brochure, Commissioner Rethlake addressed the students to contact them with any and all questions they had.

IN THE MATTER INMATE HEALTHCARE: Sheriff Hodges presented the newly amended contract with Correctional Healthcare Companies, Inc that was approved by the County attorney for signature. After reporting that the 2% increase had been noted in the 2012 budget, Commissioner Amber made a motion to sign the amended contract, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote for approval by the Commissioners.

IN THE MATTER SPYGLASS CONTRACT: A discussion of the Spyglass contract for reviewing the County's phone lines, internet and cell phone bills for billing overages. The Commissioner's liked the 50% of Cost Recovery for savings, but wanted further explanation of the 10X for any Service eliminations or Cost reductions for the future. County Coordinator Amy Crickmore will contact Spyglass for further explanation and if both fees had to be charged for the Contract for their services.

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENT FOR SRI: Auditor McGuire submitted an amendment for the SRI Services Master Agreement. The only change was stating that SRI was using the E-Verify for all of its employees and using the eligibility status for all new hired employees so they would not employ or contract with an unauthorized alien. A motion by Amber to sign the Amendment for SRI, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Michael Barton, Highway supervisor, reported that the final asphalt was going to be laid on 600 E completing the project, if the weather permitted tomorrow. Barton had meet with Brandon Forrester on Friday to discuss some projects throughout the County, subdivision off of St Rd #114, turn lane off St Hwy #24 and a Utility Permit from NIPSCO on Gatesway Dr. The permit will be allowed per Brandon, but only if they push underground and not cut through the roadway. A motion to allow the permit was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 if Brandon signs off on the permit the work can be scheduled. The Highway will continue using their own equipment to complete the projects on 300 South and Wolfe Rd.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Schrumpf informed the Board, that the ADA was looking for any corrections that need made to the County Buildings to meet standards, anything found wrong would have to be completed within two to three years for the areas that need fixed. Commissioner Amber had been out to the bridge on 550 E and spoke with Engineer Brandon Forrester that the work will be completed with McCoy’s. Amber will notify Commissioners of the car and SUV purchases for the Health and Planning departments at the November 7th meeting. Form#11’s have been mailed out for Whitley County and taxpayers have 45 days to appeal any changes with the Assessor’s office if they feel a change needs made. Chairman Rethlake reported that the Block Grant for Coesse has been approved and Lori Shipman will report in the next meeting. The EMS report for the month of September was low. Treasurer Lisa Richmond is looking at a cost savings with doing away with the Lockbox at Star Bank now used for tax payments and bringing the payment procedures back into the Treasurer’s office for property tax payments. Rethlake reported that from the redistricting done from the last census no changes would affect the Commissioners districts, but a change in Columbia City and District #2 would be needed for the Council members.

With no further business or comments from the public the meeting was adjourned.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tom Rethlake, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

George Schrumpf

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor