

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
December 19, 2011

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, December 19, 2011 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Tom Rethlake, Don Amber and George Schrumpf. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Dan Sigler, Otto Boschet Jr, James Thomlison- Post & Mail, Michael Barton, Brandon Forrester, Scott Huntley, Matt Ridenour, Mark Mynhier, Larry Long, Joan Null, Amy Motter, Stanley Crum, Debbie Beers and Dan Weigold

Commissioner Rethlake called the Commissioner meeting to order. Chairman Rethlake wanted to thank everyone for the year as serving as Chairman and extended a "Thank You" out to the County for all the personnel working together and getting along making his job easier.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY ATTORNEY: Dan Sigler, County Attorney, updated the Commissioners on the Emergency Medical Services Agreement. Three documents needed to be signed 1) Emergency Medical Services Program Agreement 2: Community Benefit Agreement 3) Mutual Agreement to Terminate. Discussion on the equipment purchased for the ambulances and who would own if the Agreement was terminated. Whether the hospital or the County purchases the ambulance it will still be titled and insured by the County. Attorney Sigler will look over these areas and clarify the information. Next attorney Sigler presented the Commissioners an Agreement to sign for the economic revenue bonds for Micropulse. All the monies will need to be drawn from the loan or it will then be taxable for Micropulse any remaining balance on the bond loan. A motion by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf for the Commissioners to sign the Micropulse Escrow Agreement carried with a 3/0 vote. Next on the agenda was an Amendment regarding inmate health care payments. The ordinance changes Section 32.05 of the Whitley County Code making the inmate responsible for payment of healthcare until committed to the Indiana Department of Correction. A motion to approve the amendment was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried for approval to sign with a 3/0 vote. Finally a contract was presented by Amy Motter from Probations department in housing at Cedarbridge Treatment Center. At this time the contract was tabled the wording for "Auto Renewal" is going to be removed from the contract and it will be looked at again in the January 3, 2012 meeting. Attorney Sigler gave his approval for the three way Contract being presented later by Dan Weigold for the county's aerial photography.

IN OTHER LEGAL MATTERS FOR THE COUNTY: Chairman Rethlake informed the Commissioners that Scott Wagner did not get a response back from the Lender for the property located on St Rd #9 and at this time advised the Health Department to proceed with capping off the well to avoid any contamination. The cost will then be put on the property as a Lien for the Ordinance Violation. There was an accident where someone slipped and fell at the Extension office and what our Liability was as the County. Commissioners will be looking into the County policy on Snow Removal for all the different locations. Also questioned was the County's liability if they designate a path with signs between Columbia City and South Whitley for bike riding, Attorney Sigler said to check with the Underwriters of the County's insurance of the liability for this. Also questioned was the previous ordinance by the County establishing the entire County as an ERA district and if this is legal or if each location needs to be specified before allowing an Economic Revitalization Area to be established.

IN THE MATTER TESTWORTH PROPERTY: Matt Ridenour and Scott Huntley came before the Commissioner's to request the purchase of the two parcels currently owned by Testworth Laboratories. The properties have been through numerous Tax Sales and finally the Commissioner's Certificate Sale last June 2011. No one bid on the two properties they want to obtain. They want to use the property as an indoor storage facility. After discussion on the clean up of the property, a motion to not allow the property to be sold without going through the normal sale procedures so that everyone has the same chance to bid on the property at the next Commissioner Certificate sale which is slated for March 2012 was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote on the matter.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY: Michael Barton gave a report of the bid results for the 2012 Annual Highway Bids. See attachment to minutes for results. Brandon Forrester gave the results of the Bridge Bids. Also accepted were the 2012 quotes from Vendors 1) Tires went to Jerry's Tires 2: Signs went to both Halls & Stello 3: Pavement marking went to Three Rivers 4) Equipment Rental went to all depending on the availability and size of the equipment when needed 5) Grader Blades went to American Wire. A motion to accept all results of the bids was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote by the Commissioners.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY: Dan Weigold from the GIS Department came before the Commissioners to request authorization for an upgrade to the Aerial Photography being done by the State. The additional cost will be \$32,768 and the funds will be covered by Reassessment, E-911 and CEDIT monies. Our third of the State will be flown in March of 2012. After discussion on the upgrades to the Contract with the State for information requested a motion to sign the Contract was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber and carried for approval to allow with a 3/0 vote. The second request from Dan was an upgrade to the GPS Unit so more of the work can be done in house and not sourced out. The cost for the upgrade is \$6,685 and will be paid out of CEDIT monies for GIS Development. A motion to allow the purchase for upgrade was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Minutes from the prior meeting December 5, 2011 we discussed, a motion to approve was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 2/0 vote. Amber abstained because of not attending the meeting. Claims for the final pay out of the 2011 budget were discussed, after discussion a motion to accept all claims was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER UTILITY PERMIT: A utility permit from presented from Frontier Communications on work being done at County Road 300 and US Hwy #33. After reviewing the information on the Permit a motion to sign was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF CLERK OFFICE: Debbie Beers came before the Commissioners with a new Quote to cut a hole in the wall of the Clerk’s office for better flow of voters in the Election portion of the Clerk’s office for Absentee voting. The quote came in from T & L Construction for \$3,782.60. After discussion of keeping with the integrity of the Courthouse and the current structures a motion to approve the change and be paid out of Cum Cap was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Debbie spoke briefly on the cost saving of combining some of the polling districts to one location to cut cost in poll workers for the upcoming election year.

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENT FOR FMLA: An amendment to an existing FMLA leave was brought before the Commissioners requesting an additional two weeks at a pay of \$50.00 a day for a total of \$500 to be dispersed. After discussion a motion to approve the amendment was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote to allow the additional days.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Final review of the Spyglass Contract showing it will only be for a twelve month effective, not an annual renewal was signed. The contract with GAI to start the work on the Coesse Water and Wastewater alternatives for the OCRA Grant. Commissioner Schrumpf gave an update on the status of going to one vendor for all maintenance, printing, cartridges to the County’s printers, copiers and fax machines. Commissioner Amber wanted to extend a huge “Thanks” to Chairman Rethlake for his work in 2011. Amber also wants to look at outsourcing the snow removal at different locations throughout the County, the Government Center, Annex and Sheriff/Jail parking lots.

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