

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**May 3, 2011**

The Whitley County Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman John Barrett, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, Tom Western, Paula Reimers and William Overdeer. John Barrett was absent. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Otto Bosch Jr, Tom Rethlake, Don Amber, George Schrumpf Commissioners, Tom Payne, Michael Barton, Jim Freeman, Pam Freeman, Duane Ginder, Lisa Peppler, Scott Gabriel, Frank Kessler, Rd Schrader, Gene Smith and Scott Darley. Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Prior minutes from the April 5, 2011 meeting were reviewed a motion to approve was made by Bayman and seconded by Overdeer and carried with a 5/0 vote in favor with Paula Reimers abstaining. The minutes from the Special Meeting held Jointly with the County Commissioners on April 12, 2011 were reviewed a motion to approve was given by LaRue, seconded by Western and carried with a 5/0 vote with Paula Reimers abstaining.

**IN THE MATTER BORDER ENERGY:** Tom Payne from Border Energy was present to give a new update on the historical savings analysis for Whitley County. The prior one distributed to the Commissioners that showed a savings was actually incorrect and Tom wanted to make everyone aware that there was actually a loss for the County in 2010. He explained this should not be permanent loss but a large loss was due to the interstate pipeline. Border is still purchasing hedges of gas to be used in the storage to help in cost savings for future use.

**IN THE MATTER OF EMS FUNDING:** Jim Freeman from Ambulance Billing Services gave his report on the Feasibility Study done for Whitley County. Three things that were taken into consideration, one being improve safety, second consideration for current EMS employees and last be cost effective for the County. Jim gave the Council the difference in a dedicated and non-dedicated systems and how the response time could be different if the current EMS's were not used to do inter-facility transfers for Parkview. Salary of the current EMS employees was discussed and how the current pay would remain the same if they became a County employee. The current billing system from Parkview is based on accrual accounting system when the County runs on a cash accounting system. Relocating the EMS's to be staffed in Churubusco, Columbia City and South Whitley for better coverage of the entire County. A questions and answer session for both Mr. Freeman and the Parkview staff from the Council and the matter was tabled for the special meeting on May 5, 2011 at 8:00 am.

At this time the County Commissioner's joined the meeting for a joint meeting of County Council and Commissioner and Commissioner Rethlake called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF LOCAL OPTION INCOME TAX (LOIT):** Todd Samuelson from Umbaugh was here to discuss statutory collection and distribution of LOIT tax for the Commissioner and Council. Todd let them know due to the short fall at the State level the distribution would be flat lined for upcoming years until a positive growth showed an income in this fund. This will have an effect both on the CAGIT and CEDIT monthly distributions. All the down turn is blamed on the severe economic struggle and the timing of collections, certifications and distributions between the State and Counties.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORT:** Commissioner Chairman Tom Rethlake reported on the following items discussed in the May 2, 2011 Commissioner meeting.

- Joint Meeting scheduled for May 5, 2011 at 8am
- Change to County Insurance policy

**IN OTHER MATTERS:** Michael Barton from the Highway Department let the Council know the Meet the Taxpayer Meeting scheduled for Wednesday May 4, 2011 was not advertised and the date was going to be changed, no new date was known at this time. Amy Crickmore passed out the current Vehicle Inventory for the Sheriff's department showing the mileage for each vehicle and the mpg each vehicle is getting .

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

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

---

Kim Wheeler, Chairman

---

John Barrett, Vice Chairman

---

James Bayman

---

Glen LaRue

---

Thomas E. Western

---

William N. Overdeer

---

Paula G. Reimers

Attest:

---

Jennifer McGuire, Auditor