

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**October 4, 2011**

The Whitley County Council met in a regular session on Tuesday October 4, 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, and Paula Reimers. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Attorney Dan Sigler, Otto Boschet Jr, Robert Bishir Jr, Michael Barton, Sheriff Hodges, Jim Becher, George Schrumpf, Cindy Barnett, Don Amber, Cathy Broxton-Ball, and Terrie Bishir.

**IN THE MATTER MINUTES:** Minutes from the September 20, 2011 meeting were reviewed, a motion to approve as "is" were made by LaRue, seconded by Western and carried with a 6/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER QUARTERLY REPORT:** Jim Becher submitted his quarter request for the County in regards to IT equipment, five new computers, software updates, the cost is still under the \$5000 budgeted for each quarter. Discussion on the cost for Work Release and if they will pay for their own charges out of Grant monies. Becher also let the Council know that the contract with Mediacom is being terminated and all internet service will go back to CenturyLink at this time. Very poor customer service and never got the speed for internet that was quoted when the County entered into the contract with Mediacom.

**IN THE MATTER SHERIFF'S CONTRACT:** Dan Sigler presented the new Sheriff's Contract for 2011. Dan spoke of the changes to the new contract, that Sheriff's raises will be allowed just like the other county employees, removed the reimbursement for insurance, no monies for tax warrants or meal money from the jail. The predecessor of each elected Sheriff will have to use this Contract as a template and renegotiate the terms when they come into office. A motion made by Bayman to approve the new contract was made, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 4/2 vote with Reimers and Western voting the nays.

**IN THE MATTER POLICE RETIREMENT PLAN:** Sheriff Hodges asked the Council to amend the Whitley Count Police Retirement Plan implemented by McCready and Keen, Inc. After discussion a motion was made by Bayman to allow Chairman Wheeler to sign on behalf of the Council for the changes to the plan, seconded by Western and carried with a 5/0 vote. Council member Reimers abstained from the vote.

**IN THE MATTER EXTENSION OFFICE:** Cindy Barnett from the Extension office was present to discuss the improvements at the Extension office. They want to move both secretaries into the front office, that will free up a small conference room, remove the existing counter that is not very useable and recarpet the area. They will have \$1000 to put towards the project. After discussion a motion to approve was made by Bayman, seconded by LaRue and carried with a 6/0 vote from the Council for the changes and improvements. Also discussed was the increase of \$400 for the Contractual services for the Extension budget for a total of \$39,460, a motion to approve the increase was made by Reimers, seconded by Western and carried with a 6/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER COUNTY CARS 2012 BUDGET:** Commissioner Amber reported to the Council the information he had gathered in regards to purchasing more gas efficient cars for the Health Department and Planning and Building department for the 2012 budget year. Sealed bids will come from the two local dealers and the Council wants the purchased to be mixed between the two businesses. Discussion about the Community Corrections department purchasing cars out of County monies and reimbursing with the Grant monies for the project further information will have to be gathered to make a determination on this request. Council member LaRue wants the personal use of County vehicles looked into for all departments. Sheriff's department will be notified they will keep cars for a longer time since they will no longer be retired to the other departments. A motion to approve the purchase of new cars out of the 2012 Cum Cap budget was made by Reimers, seconded by LaRue and carried for approval with a 6/0 vote by Council.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT:** Commissioner Chairman Rethlake gave the Commissioner's report,

- Representative from Spyglass looking into costing saving for the County in regards to telephone, internet and cell phone charges.
- Redistricting is being looked into for the four Council positions based on any change to population from the GIS department
- Gary Bird from the Veteran's Marathon gave an update of the race

- Representatives from the Huntertown Sewer district discussed the impact the changes will have on the Eel River drain in Whitley County
- 2012 Holiday Schedule approved

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Further budget changes were discussed. Finalized the Commissioner’s budget including the EMS charges as a line item for 2012. Removed the budget line item for Soil and Water except for the wages and added a line item for Educations services slated for the Troy Center. Assessor’s office will be using an outside source Worrell Corp for mailing the Form 11’s for 2012 it will save on time and postage for the County by using this service.

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

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Kim Wheeler, Chairman

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John Barrett, Vice Chairman

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James Bayman

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Glen LaRue

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Thomas E. Western

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William N. Overdeer

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Paula G. Reimers

Attest:

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Jennifer McGuire, Auditor