

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 2, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, January 20, 2015 at 1:00pm in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Tom Rethlake, Don Amber, and George Schrumpf. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Mark Parker, Dan Weigold, Scott Wagner, Michael Barton, Stanley Crum, Joan Null, Marcus Gatton, Lori Kreider, Mary Hartman, Brandon Forrester, Anthony Doquette, Lana Benegszazi, and Ned Nitza.

Chairman Rethlake called the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Sigler presented to the Commissioners that there is a food service that requests to be open for business on Park 30 Drive. Alan Tio presented a little further information to the Commissioners on the matter. Attorney Sigler stated that he did not believe that this is a liability issue. Commissioner Amber stated that he did not favor the idea. The food service must have legal documentation, a license, allowing them to be open for business on Park 30 drive. Sigler stated that we could produce an ordinance for specific matters such as this.

IN THE MATTER OF THE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTRACT: Dan Weigold, the GIS Coordinator, presented the Aerial Photography Contract to the Commissioners. He stated the contract was approved by Attorney Sigler. Dan Weigold is hopeful that they will be able to fly this March for the photography. The total amount of the contract is \$101,388.00. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the Aerial Photography Contract, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE TAX WARRANT SOFTWARE: Sheriff Marcus Gatton is requesting the purchase of tax warrant software for \$3,500. It is the same one that has been used in the past. The contract is up March 30th. Commissioner Amber requested that the tax warrant software be included in the Sheriff budget. Amber made a motion to approve the \$3,500 to the Sheriff department from County General for the tax warrant software, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2014 BRIDGE INSPECTION REPORT: County Engineer Brandon Forrester presented the 2014 Bridge Inspection report to the Commissioners. He stated that the report gives information on the bridge plans for 2015 and it is tentative. The report for the bridge replacement and repair plan is based on the results of the inspection report. The culvert replacement plan is based on the results as well.

IN THE MATTER OF THE OCRA GRANT FOR FORT WAYNE METALS: Alan Tio from the EDC presented a modification request to an OCRA grant for Fort Wayne Metals. They are requesting that the total number of jobs to be created be modified from 30 to 27. They are also asking for a time extension from December 31, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The time extension is to ensure that all of the grant paperwork is completed within the time scope of the grant. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the number of jobs created be modified from 30 to 27, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Amber, the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE BCS/SECANT GROUP: The BCS/Secant Group presented a proposal for professional services in regard to the Whitley County Regional Water and Sewer District Organization. Their purpose is to establish this organization in Whitley County that is chartered through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. They hope to aid in the existing water and sanitary service that we have. The current services that we have cannot reasonably accommodate extension of service to the unincorporated towns and rural areas that are, and will be in need of cost effective septic system relief. They believe that this is a cost effective solution and hope to work with Whitley County in the future.

IN THE MATTER OF THE BOSEKER DEMOLITION: Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented three different quotes for the demolition. He had sent in a request to have the residence and all of the other structures on the property demolished. The costs of the demolition will eventually be recovered and paid back to the County. The homeowners have chosen not to test the property which results in it being demolished. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to move forward with the demolition with direction from the County Attorney, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. There are three different contractors for the demolition. The first is by Kim Reiff with a bid of \$10,640 and the second bid is by DL Bailey with a bid of \$9,750. The last bid is by Earth Pros in Fort Wayne and their bid is for \$30,950. Commissioner Amber made a motion for the Boseker demolition bids. The decision was tabled until the February 17th meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE DUQUETTE WELL VARIANCE: Scott Wagner brought back the Duquette well variance to the Commissioners. The Commissioners reviewed the well variance. They had previously denied the request. Mr. Duquette personally came before the Commissioners for an explanation of why they need this variance. Schrumpf made a motion to approve the Duquette well variance with the stipulation of an indemnification to stay with the property. Any problems with the well, it is to be abandoned and re-drill a new well. The motion was seconded by Amber and it passed with a 2/1 vote with Rethlake voting against.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Michael Barton came before the Commissioners to request that the Washington Township Fire Department utilize the County Fuel Facility. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the snow storm, Barton stated that they have not had many calls about road trucks damaging mailboxes.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the January 20, 2015 joint Commissioner/Council meeting were reviewed. After review, Schrumpf made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. The minutes from the January 20, 2015 Commissioner meeting were reviewed. There were a few corrections from the Commissioners. Under "In the Matter of DFI Grant Requests" it reads, "After review, Amber made a motion to approve the DFI grant requests, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote". It should read, "After review, Amber made a motion for a favorable pass to the Council for the DFI grant requests, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Amber made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. The claims were reviewed by the Commissioners. After review, Amber made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Amber spoke to the Commissioners about dropping short term disability benefits to the employees. He has spoken to the County Attorney about it and asked if there are any downfalls to dropping it. Attorney Sigler stated that the policy is open ended and the policy needs to be more specific. Commissioner Amber made a motion to no longer offer short term disability as the policy handbook states, but will make it an option to offer it through outside sources and it would be effective immediately. Commissioner Schrumpf seconded the motion and it passed with a 3/0 vote. County Coordinator Pam Smith had a request to use a County facility. Julie Copeland is requesting to use the Courthouse Square and gazebo for the 2015 JA Car Show on August 1, 2015 from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm. Schrumpf made a motion to approve the request of County facilities, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Pam Smith also brought up the credit card issues discussed at the previous meeting. After discussion, Amber made a motion to not approve any debit cards for the County, the motion was seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. There was also discussion that the Commissioners are going to be looking into alternative insurance possibilities for the County. The Commissioners reviewed the 2014 covered bridges certification. Whitley County does not have any covered bridges and the certification was signed by the Commissioners. In regard to the US 30 study, Rethlake made a motion for Commissioner Schrumpf to stay committed to the US

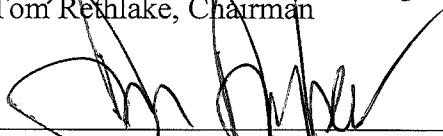
30 study and stay in touch with the Whitley County Farm Bureau representative. Region 3A asked the Commissioners to appoint someone to their Board of Directors. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to nominate Amber to the Region 3A District, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Commissioner Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm.

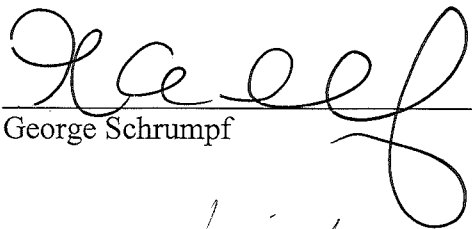
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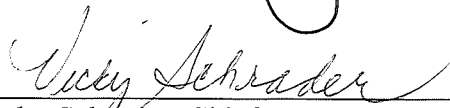
Tom Rethlake, Chairman



Don Amber, Vice Chairman



George Schrumpf

Attest: 

Vicky Schrader, Chief Deputy

