

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
May 7, 2012

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, May 7, 2012 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Don Amber, Vice Chair George Schrumpf and Tom Rethlake. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Dan Sigler, Otto Boschet Jr, Brianne Eichman, Henry Janda, Katie Wagner, Mark Mynhier, Joan Null, Dave Sewell, Stanley Crum, Larry Long, Michael Barton, Alan Tio and Dan Weigold.

Commissioner Amber called the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY: Dan Sigler, County Attorney, approved the changes for Nepotism in the County Handout and the new Conflict of Interest statements that will need to be filed for the law changes effective July 2, 2012 by legislation, without Amy Crickmore present at meeting the update was tabled for the next meeting May 21, 2012 with some questions. Mr. Sigler will be reviewing the County Golf Cart Ordinance with the changes in legislation effective July 1. Commissioners will make Attorney Sigler aware if a Public meeting will be held for the Wind Ordinance.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY: Michael Barton, Highway Supervisor, said the biggest program for the Summer will be the sealing. Sealing the milled roads from last Fall will be first on the priority and then a couple weeks break and then back to double seals. The Gateway Park project for improvements is on hold until the utilities all get moved for the grading and up dates to culverts. Sign inventory is done for the County and Dan Weigold and Barton have been looking at the possible Grants for the cost of the signs and been getting the run around from LTAP and the State on who is in charge. All the signs now being replaced in the County meet the High grade requirements if need replaced for damage or vandalism. The next step is to mark all the signs with a label and they are getting pricing from Stellos at this time. The calcium chloride program will start the last week of May for the County depending on the weather the next few weeks.

IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT: A utility permit from Frontier Communications was presented to the Commissioners for approval. Chairman Amber discussed that he had already given a verbal approval because of the urgency for the connection on County Road 375 N and it was the only phone access for an elderly person. A motion to approve the permit was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER HEALTH BOARD APPOINTMENT: A letter from the Secretary, Joan Miller, of the Health Department stated that Greg Hockemeyer recently resigned his Board member position on the Health Board and is at this time requesting a new appointment of Grace Lotter. The appointment must be a registered Democrat and Ms. Lotter meets the requirements and need the Commissions approval for appointment. A motion to approve was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR AUTUMN FESTIVAL: A request to use the Courthouse square and gazebo came from Jeff Walker for the Whitley County Autumn Festival for September 7 & 8, 2012. Commissioner Rethlake wanted to know if it interfered with the Saturday Market Day that goes on. The Commissioners tabled the request until the May 21, 2012 meeting to find out.

IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENT: A request from the South Whitley Plan Commission for a new appointment came from Dave Sewell, director of the Planning and Building Department. The current appointment Larry Tackitt has resigned because he is moving out of the area. Michael Krause was recommended for the appointment and meets the criteria and is interested in serving on the Commission until January 1, 2016. After discussion a motion to approve the new appointment of Michael Krause was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY WIND ORDINANCE: Commissioner Amber opened the discussion with a statement "Thanking" the Plan Commission along with Dave Sewell and all its members for the time and effort on the Ordinance. Amber made reference to all the pro and con letters and emails he has received in respect to the Ordinance and has tried to keep up in responding and listening to all parties on the subject and what they had to say. A fair decision will have to be made. The Commissioners received the Ordinance on April 11, 2012 and will have ninety days to

come up with a decision. They can either approve the Ordinance as it is written, make amendments to the Ordinance and send it back to Planning or do nothing and it will take effect after the ninety days. Commissioner Rethlake wanted the decision to be a referendum on the Ballot for the people to decide but at this time is not an option. Rethlake wants all to look at how the decision will affect the future of the County and if it will have a decrease of assessed values for homes in the area. The question if it causes Health issues came up, some will tell you it does harm you and others will tell you the opposite. The Ordinance will be on the Commissioners agenda for the next several meetings and if a Public meeting is necessary it will be in the evening hours. At this time discussion was tabled until next meeting for further review.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Minutes from the April 16, 2012 was approved as written with a motion from Commissioner Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schrumpf had reviewed claims for May 7, 2012, the only question was the disbursement of \$39,000 to the Extension office for Professional services. A request to have the Extension office representative at the next meeting was made. A motion to approve claims was then make by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and approved with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY BUILDING UPDATES: Denny Fenker was present to discuss updates needed for the new tobacco law for the Government buildings effective July 1, 2012. Seventeen signs will be needed throughout the County. Denny also discussed building issues at the County Museum and the Extension office and had quotes for both. Also discussed was the heating system at the Courthouse and after discussion a favorable recommendation to repair all will be sent to the Council at their meeting on Wednesday, a motion was make by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY AMBULANCE: Commissioner Amber presented an Amendment to the Commissioner for the Contract with Parkview to purchase a new ambulance. This does not increase the number of ambulances purchased by the County just moved the date up. The funding will come from the CEDIT fund for 2012. After discussion a motion to allow the Amendment and purchase was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Rethlake thanked the members again for the great work for Government days and reported that he had recently meet with Child Care Services for an update on their department. Commissioner Schrumpf has worked out a schedule for the Tri-lakes park and that Community Corrections will have people to open and close the park Memorial Day thanks to Paula Worden and Thor Hodges. The County will have to work on being ADA to meet State requirements Schrumpf will work with County Engineer Brandon Forrester on this plan. Commissioner Amber is working on Health Insurance for the August 1st date with Chad Burch and the vision insurance had a great feedback it is probably a go for next years policy. A thank you to Alan Tio for the business tours last Monday and Commissioner Rethlake for the school visits for Government. The County Auction will be June 9, 2012 and at this time all that is being sold is the cars, no small items this year. A motion to allow the \$500 payment to the City for the flowers for the 2012 season was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote by the Commissioners. An upgrade to the boosters in the Government Center so that cell phones can be used in the rooms in the basement was presented by Commissioner Amber, after discussion a motion to approve was made by Rethlake to spend the \$2200 out of their budget, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. A 2013 request for \$176,000 came from the Bowen Center, the Commissioners want a representative to come to the next meeting for discussion on what this request is spent on for the citizens of Whitley County.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Don Amber, Chairman

George Schrumpf, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake, Member

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor