

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**July 2, 2012**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, July 2, 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, Brianne Eichman, Henry Janda, Katie Wagner, Dave Sewell, Stanley Crum, Ken Moeller, Amy Crickmore, Pam Smith, Tom LaRue, Cathy Broxon-Ball, Patton Cox, Chad Burch and Frank Hoffman.

Commissioner Amber called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER COUNTY BURN BAN:** At this time the Whitley County Commissioners along with the recommendation of the Whitley County Fire Chiefs Association, is going to extend the Declaration of Limited Local Disaster Emergency for all Open Burn Ban in Whitley County. This will be as of July 2, 2012 until July 9, 2012 at 1pm and will then be revisited based on the drought conditions at that time. A motion to sign the extension was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote from the Commission. Other discussion was for fireworks over the lakes and with no guarantee as to the fallout from the fireworks that also will not be allowed.

**IN THE MATTER WIND ORDINANCE:** Dave Sewell came to report back to the Commissioners the results of the revisions proposed for the Wind Energy Conversion Systems from the Plan Commissions June 20, 2012 meeting. The Plan Commission voted 4 in favor, 4 against with 1 abstention on the motion to approve the revisions. This in turn, based on Attorneys recommendations is a "failure to act" so in forty-five days the Wind Ordinance will pass with the changes from the County Commissioners that date will be July 19, 2012 and then can be signed by the County Commissioners and enforced by the Plan Commission. Dave also presented to the Commissioners Ordinance #2012-12 amending the zoning for floodplain standards in Whitley County. With a "favorable recommendation" from the Plan Commission, Schrumpf made a motion to accept the Ordinance #2012-12 as presented seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote, more detailed floodplain maps will be available as they are updated.

**IN THE MATTER JAIL IMPROVEMENTS:** Sheriff Hodges reported to the Commissioners that the control panel mechanism will need to be replaced the current equipment is over twenty five years old, at this time not all the bids are in and Hodges is reviewing the quotes to make sure they are all quoting apples to apples. The Sheriff will be comparing all the bids and report back to the Commissioners at a later time. The estimated cost should be around \$160,000. Sheriff Hodges also reported that the County radio system was not prepared for the storms from last Friday and that something needed to be looked at switching from VHF to megahertz in that kind of situation. This is the second time this situation has occurred. Maybe more channels need to be established, at this time the Commissioner's want Sheriff Hodges to check with other Counties for what they are using and if the situation occurs in other Counties during an emergency situation. Scott Jones will be looking into separate internet connection for the EMA for an emergency situation backup.

**IN THE MATTER OF GOLF CART ORDINANCE:** Sheriff Hodges also spoke on the implementation of the new Golf Cart Ordinance effective July 1, 2012. A copy of the Ordinance is being given out with each sticker upon registration, the actual cart is NOT being inspected but the owner is signing that their cart meets all the requirements stated in the Ordinance. The sticker is to be placed on the left front panel of the cart so it is visible. Since the County Permit differs from the City Permit regulations you will need a separate sticker for each location. No driving on State Highways only to cross and no driving in incorporated areas Churubusco, Larwill and South Whitley.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY GROUP INSURANCE:** Chad Burch from Phillips Financial reported to the Commissioners the cost for the August 1, 2012 renewal for the County employee insurance coverage. After discussion of the different options, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to stay with AGA for the renewal and use Option #1, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The cost to the County for this monthly fixed cost and claims will be \$143,570.95 up from the previous amount of \$119,155.73. At this time it will take two to two and half years to build the Trust base amount back up again. After discussion it was tabled to review if the employee contribution would need to be increase and if so when the new amount should be implemented.

**IN THE MATTER OF LAB CORP PROGRAM:** A contract with Lab Corp to use the immunization office as a blood draw site in the Government Center for all County employees and

families covered by our County Group insurance was presented. After discussion of the cost savings to the health plan, convenience for the County employees and maybe a source of income at a later time, a motion to approve the Contract was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote to utilize the Health department facilities.

**IN THE MATTER OF MAXIMUS:** Ken Moeller from Maximus came to report the (CAP) Cost Allocation Plan for Whitley County based on the financial data collected and reported to the State on behalf of the Whitley County Title IV-D in the amount of \$39,291. The average amount for the past years is \$43,300 and nearly \$650,000 in federal reimbursements for Whitley County.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 18, 2012 meeting with one correction of the word “Human” be changed to “Humane” , seconded by Amber and carried with a 2/0 vote, Rethlake absent. Commissioner Amber reviewed the current claims for disbursement for the County dated July 2, 2012. After discussion a motion to approve was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber and carried with a 2/0 vote, Rethlake absent.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR:** Commissioner Amber introduced the new County Coordinator, Pam Smith, and welcomed her to the County. Pam presented a request form a County Employee FMLA leave of 12 weeks, the employee can cover 75 hours of vacation and 3.75 hours of sick leaving 18.5 days at \$50.00 a day to cover the entire 12 weeks requested. A motion to approve was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber and carried with a 2/0 vote, Rethlake absent. Pam also requested everyone to join the Commissioners in a Farewell Party for former Coordinator Amy Crickmore that will be in Room C on Friday July 6, 2012 from 1-3pm.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Commissioner Amber asked for approval of the Commissioners Budget submission to the Council for 2013, after discussion of the changes he had made and adding Snow Removal for 2013, a motion to approve was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber and carried to present to the Council on July 10, 2012 with a 2/0 vote, Rethlake absent.

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

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Don Amber, Chairman

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George Schrumpf, Vice Chairman

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Tom Rethlake, Member

Attest:\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer McGuire  
Auditor