

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL
March 6, 2012

The Whitley County Council met in a regular session on Tuesday March 6, 2012 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman John Barrett, Vice Chairman Jim Bayman, Kim Wheeler, Glen LaRue, Bill Overdeer and Paula Reimers, Tom Western was absent. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Otto Boschett Jr, Don Amber, Chad Whetstone, Kristi Maloney, Lindsay Pease, Mark Sturtevant, Dennis Fenker, Tracy Hare, April Whetstone, Michael Barton and James Tomlinson

Chairman Barrett called the meeting to Order.

IN THE MATTER MINUTES: Minutes from the regular Council meeting February 7, 2012 were reviewed, a motion to approve as submitted was made by Reimers, seconded by LaRue and carried for approval with a 5/0 vote with Overdeer abstaining.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY RECORDER: April Whetstone, County Recorder, requested funds from her #335 Fund Identity Security Protection be used to pay for imaging archiving 1973-1989 microfilm. This will be the first installment of 25% due in the amount of \$7171.55 to Fidar, April explained the other funding will come from Fund #247 County Recorders Perpetuation. A motion by Bayman to approve the expenditure, seconded by Overdeer and carried for approval by Council with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROPRIATIONS: It was brought to the Auditor's attention that no appropriations were established for the Rainy Day #440 fund for 2012. The advertisement of Sick Time Payout \$25,000, Group Insurance \$900,000 and Misc Expense \$150,000 were advertised in the local papers. After discussion of what previous funding was available for Group Insurance and what misc expenses were actually paid out in 2011 Reimers made a motion to table the appropriation until further information could be looked at, seconded by Overdeer and voted with a 6/0. Next on the agenda was the two Salary Ordinance Amendments, first was the new position in the Assessor's office for a Deputy Assessor. The Personnel Committee had factored the position as a COMOT #2 for a base pay of \$29,440 a motion to approve the Amendment was made by Wheeler, seconded by Reimers and carried with a 5/1 vote with Bayman casting the nay vote. Second was the Salary Ordinance Amendment for Circuit Court Reporter changing the factoring from a COMOT #2 to a COMOT #1 for a base pay of \$32,535 and to request back wages for the 2012 pay. A motion to approve the Circuit Court change was made by Bayman, seconded by LaRue and carried with a 6/0 vote by Council.

IN THE MATTER HIGHWAY 2012 BUDGET: Michael Barton from the Highway presented the Budget Reductions that need to be made for the 2012 Budget. Most of the budget cuts were from 2011 but not continued into the appropriations for the 2012 budget. After discussion of funding for the Highway and where other funding was being drawn from for expenses for different line items of the Highways current budget for 2012 a motion was made by Overdeer to support an appropriation out of County General in the amount of \$45,000, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 6/0 vote. All the reductions of appropriations will be made at this time as noted and reviewed again at budget time for 2013 to see where the County Highway stands.

IN THE MATTER COURTHOUSE REPAIRS: Mark Sturtevant and Dennis Fenker from Maintenance came before the Council to report some concerns and ask with the recommendation of the Commissioners for funding on the exterior of the Courthouse this year. Three different prices were presented to the Council

Alternate #1 Upper Section	\$108,786
North Elevation Repairs	\$14,877

Alternate #2 North/South /East/West Elevation Repairs	\$54,479
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Alternate #3 East/West elevations Steps	\$4,426
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Total \$167,691

After discussion of the current issues reported in the infrastructure of the Courthouse and how long it has been since any repairs have been done to those locations on the building a motion to approve the funding out of Cum Cap was made by LaRue, seconded by Overdeer and carried with a 6/0 vote

from Council. Further discussion of the pricing for the new Boilers/Chillers that are going to be needed in the Courthouse and if the funding was available yet this year or if it will have to wait another year to proceed with the heating/cooing project. Mark is going to check to see if the quotes are good for the rest of the year or if they will change if the work is not done soon. Council determined to revisit the issue later in the Summer around budget time to see wait funds would be available and if enough time would be allowed before the weather gets cold.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Commissioner Chairman Amber gave the Commissioner’s report,

- Dan Sigler contracted for another year, requesting space to use in the Government Center when here for County business
- Offices for the Commissioner’s
- Sheriff Sale County Ordinance #2012-04 for fees
- New Polling locations for 2012 elections
- Appointment of Stanley Crum for the Wood-Lands & Lakes Council
- Spyglass savings
- Umbaugh working on the refinancing for Government Center Bonds
- T.R.O.Y. Center funding for 2012 \$25,000
- Assessor hired new employee

IN OTHER MATTERS: Galen & Betty Wilkinson expressed their frustration with the tax rate and funding for the South Whitley Library. Since the Township trustee changed the way Richland residents pay the library tax it is now based on the property owners assessment not a lump amount paid by the township trustee. Chairman Barrett acknowledged their frustration but told them County Council has no power over the Library Board for South Whitley.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

John Barrett, Chairman

James Bayman, Vice Chairman

Kim Wheeler

Glen LaRue

Thomas E. Western

William N. Overdeer

Paula G. Reimers

Attest:

Jennifer McGuire, Auditor