

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**August 7, 2012**

The Whitley County Council met in a regular session on Tuesday August 7, 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, Paula Reimers and Tom Western. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Coordinator Pam Smith, Don Amber, Otto Boschet Jr, Brianne Eichman, Sean Martin, Chuck Vogely, Mark Hodges, Marc Gatton, Dennis Fenker, Frank Kessler, Brandon Forrester, Michael Barton, Daylan and Betty Wilkinson.

Chairman Barrett called the meeting to Order.

**IN THE MATTER MINUTES:** Minutes from the joint Commissioner Council meeting July 24, 2012 were reviewed, a motion to approve as submitted was made by Western, seconded by Wheeler and carried for approval with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER CEDIT FUNDS:** Alan Tio, EDC Director, came before the Council with request for two CEDIT appropriations for Project #3 On-Site Economic Development, the first is for BRC Rubber in Churubusco for \$75,000 for electrical upgrades for a production line coming out of Canada creating 37 jobs over the next three years after discussion a motion to allow appropriation was made by Overdeer, seconded by LaRue and carried with a 7/0 vote. The second request is for Westminster, a medical business looking at relocating in the recently vacated Greatbatch building located in Park #30 and the appropriation is for \$25,000 out of CEDIT and other TIF incentives for the relocation out of Michigan.

**IN THE MATTER COUNTY JAIL:** Sheriff Hodges made a presentation to the Council with favorable recommendation from the Commissioners for an upgrade to the current door opening system and security cameras located at the jail. The packet was mailed out to the Council showing the quotes from all four vendors and comparing each system available. Sheriff Hodges has chosen to go with SAS (Security Automation Systems) after reviewing the quotes. After discussion a motion by Bayman to allow \$100,000 from Rainy Day fund at this time and the remaining balance will be paid with Cum Cap or CEDIT at the end of the project, seconded by Reimers and carried with a 7/0 vote to proceed with upgrade and security cameras.

**IN THE MATTER OF BUILDING REPAIRS:** Denny Fenker came before the Council to report on the lighting issue at the Courthouse and Annex building. The current light fixtures and ballast will no longer be manufactured as of July 14, 2012. There is a rebate now to replace the existing fixtures that will not be available later. The cost at the Courthouse is \$22,643 and the Annex is \$12,340 on one bid has been submitted. After discussion on this matter Denny was directed to get quotes from local contractors for the work and come back to the Council on his findings. Next request was the replacement of three furnaces in the Annex building, a favorable recommendation to purchase the equipment from Redman's came from the Commissioner's meeting and after discussion a motion to purchase the furnaces out of Cum Cap Funds was made by Western, seconded by Reimers and carried with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER BACKHOE PURCHASE:** Brandon Forrester, County Engineer, came before Council to request the purchase of a backhoe to do small drainage repairs throughout the County, Brandon had approval for \$35,000 from CEDIT Funds and \$6,000 from Redevelopment Funds for the purchase. After discussion a motion to allow the purchase was made by Overdeer, seconded by Western, and voted on with a 2/5 vote not allowing the project to proceed at this time.

**IN THE MATTER OF ASSESSOR OFFICE:** The additional pay for "increase of responsibilities" that was paid out on July 5, 2012 to the acting Deputy Assessor was not voted on by Council in the previous meeting and should not have been processed. At this time a motion by Reimers to have the employee pay back the increase was made, seconded by LaRue and carried with a 7/0 vote. At this time a motion to pay the Assessor and Deputy Assessor pay was made by Reimers pending legal review, seconded and voted on with a 6/0 vote with LaRue abstaining.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT:** Commissioner Amber gave the Commissioner's report,

- Commissioner’s signed Wind Ordinance
- County looking at giving Property back to DNR to be used for Camp Whitley and the Thorncreek Township
- Commissioner’s voted to increase employee group insurance to 30%
- Budget Certification Map to show status of Whitley County in the 2013 Tax year
- Columbia City will be recognized the week of August 22 by WANE-TV
- Rita Sauders taking her Level III Certification this week
- Discussion on CEDIT Plan
- Mileage on new cars 23.2

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Gaylen & Betty Wilkinson came to express their dissatisfaction with the budget at South Whitley Library to the Council. They were directed to discuss the issue with the Richland Township Trustee Darcy Hoopingardner. Council wants a list of equipment and miles/hours from the Highway and a replacement schedule to help with forecasting the funding. Check on re-establishing the Cum Bridge and Cum Capital Fund rates. Auditor McGuire will report on the Department appropriations for Supplies compared to one appropriation from the Commissioner’s budget. Council moved the Institutional Care of \$150,000 back to the Commissioner’s budget from Probation. Check with the Health Board and Dr. Hatcher in amending the Health Department visits from three annual to the State requirement of one visit per year. The vote for additional position the Auditor’s office was 3/4 against for 2013 budget, putting back the part-time appropriation to \$16,000, voted against the extra personal for the Assessor’s office; the Extension office will only have two Contracted Educators as the previous budget. The contracted employee at Soil and Water will be ran through the claims as an appropriation for services specific to County and reimbursed to the District. Discussion on the employee insurance contribution change and salary increases tabled for future information will advertise budget at the higher percentage.

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

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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John Barrett, Chairman

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James Bayman, Vice Chairman

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Kim Wheeler

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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