

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**September 5, 2012**

The Whitley County Council met in a regular session on Wednesday September 5, 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 Boschert Jr, Brianne Eichman, Katie Wagner, Loren Kravig, Alan Tio, Lisa Hatcher, Kim Erdly, Michael Barton and Mark Sturtevant.

Chairman Barrett called the meeting to Order, suspended the regular meeting to conduct the Binding Review for the Whitley County Solid Waste Hearing and the Whitley County Council Hearing for the 2013 budget year. Chairman Barrett read both publications and announced that the Adoption of both budgets will be on October 2, 2012 8:00 am for Solid Waste and 8:15 am for Whitley County. At this time no one from the public had any comments or discussion. The hearings were closed and the regular meeting resumed.

**IN THE MATTER OF NEW ABATEMENT:** Alan Tio from EDC and Loren Kravig from Region III-A presented County Council with a Resolution for a new business going in at Rail Connect Park. After discussion of the type of business, assessments for both Real Estate and Personal Property and the number of jobs it would be creating, a motion by Overdeer to allow the new ten year abatement for Indiana Material Processing LLC, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 7/0 vote to allow Resolution #2012-11 and sign the new SB-1 form for 2013 abatement on both Real Estate and Personal Property.

**IN THE MATTER OF MICROPULSE ABATEMENT:** A request for an amendment to Resolution 2010-13 for Micropulse had been received by Auditor McGuire. Micropulse stated that it is only 55% with purchasing the new Manufacturing Equipment and would like to move the "Date of Completion" on the SB-1 to August 31, 2013 to complete the entire project. After discussion of when the abatement amount would be allowed, a motion to allow the amendment was made by Bayman, seconded by Overdeer and carried with a 7/0 vote to move out the completion date on the Statement of Benefit for Micropulse.

**IN THE MATTER MINUTES:** Minutes Council meeting August 7, 2012 were reviewed, a motion to approve as submitted was made by LaRue, seconded by Overdeer and carried for approval with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER ASSESSORS OFFICE:** Deputy Assessor, Kim Erdly, presented information to the Council and requested all the changes over the past months that were implemented in the Assessor's offices be reviewed and discussed. After discussion a motion by Bayman to pay both Sauders and Erdly for "additional responsibilities" back to the April 30, 2012 time retroactive with Sauders receiving the pay as the Assessor and Erdly receive the pay as of Deputy Assessor until the change was made on July 7, 2012 when both employee wages were increased after the caucus was held. The additional pay of \$750 will be deducted from the additional payout changes. This motion was seconded by Overdeer, and noted that the changes will be processed through the HR department carried with a 7/0 vote from Council.

**IN THE MATTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** Dr. Hatcher came before the Council to discuss the current Food Establishment Ordinance #0-90-17. At the present time Whitley County conducts a visit three times a year but the State only requires one visit annually. At this time the Health Board is revising the Ordinance but the onsite visits now with new requirements takes 2-3 hours per establishment. So even if we cut the number of visits the time will still be required to complete the inspection. We currently have around seven problem establishments and the final Ordinance will have to be presented to Commissioners after the County Attorney reviews it and Commissioners accepts any changes. Discussion of the personnel within the Health department and if jobs descriptions could be changed around with the down time after times studies were done, but Dr. Hatcher is using the extra time for help with the accreditation that is being required by State for Grants.

**IN THE MATTER OF LIGHTING UPDATES:** Mark Sturtevant presented quotes from two local contractors to complete the lighting project upgrades in the Courthouse and Annex building. The first quote was from Rider Electric for \$22,911 and the second was from Whetstone Electric for \$26,400 after discussion a decision to go ahead with the project yet this year to save money and get the rebates that are being offered for the upgrades. A motion by Bayman to go with the Rider quote and pay for the project out of Cum Cap Fund was made, seconded by Western and carried with a 7/0 vote from the Council to proceed on the upgrades to the lighting fixtures.

**IN THE MATTER HIGHWAY ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION:** A request for Additional Appropriations for the #1176-25001.000.201 for \$60,000 for Fuel Station Supplies was presented to Council by Highway Supervisor Michael Barton. After discussion the request was tabled until later in the year to determine if appropriations could be transferred around within the Highway budget for this increase.

**IN THE MATTER OF CIRCUIT COURT ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AND TRANSFERS:** Judge Heuer came before the Council to remove the Additional Appropriation request and noted the \$7500 would be paid out of Fund #2507 Supplemental Public Defender for the rest of the 2012 budget year. The rest of the transfers were all within the 2012 Department budget and a motion to allow the transfers were made by Overdeer, seconded by Western and carried with a 7/0 vote to allow the appropriation changes within Circuit Courts 2012 budget.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY TAX RATE 2013:** Notification from the Indiana Department of Revenue was given to Council for the rates for Whitley County from October 1, 2012 through September 30,2013. After discussion of the current rates and what dollar amount was being distributed monthly to Whitley with those rates in place compared to other counties our size. A motion to not change the CEDIT and CAGIT rates for 2013, leaving CAGIT at .01% and CEDIT at .002329 was made by Wheeler, seconded by Western and carried with a 7/0 vote to review again next year.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY NON-BINDING BUDGET REVIEW FORM:** A copy of all the Non-Binding districts for Whitley County from townships, libraries, schools, cities and towns were presented to Council. After discussion a motion to sign and approve all Review forms and return to the districts with a letter of what the County average rate was for 2013 and note if they were above the percent allowed by State growth quotient for 2013 was made by Overdeer, seconded by LaRue and carried with a 6/0 vote with Wheeler abstaining to vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY EMPLOYEE RAISES 2013:** Discussion on the budget for 2013 and if raises would be allowed after the increase of Whitley County contribution that was going to be needed to cover the self-insured coverage for County health insurance. A motion for no pay raises in 2013 was made by Wheeler, seconded by LaRue and was defeated with a 3-4 vote by Council. More discussion on keeping the current salaries competitive with the national rate and low turnover ratio we have in the County then a motion to increases to salaries based on the COLA (Cost of Living Adjustments) that were presented by HR was made by Reimers, seconded by Overdeer and carried by Council with a 4/3 vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Council wants to Re-Establish both Cum Capital and Cum Bridge Funds in 2013 and start the project for advertisement in March 2013. Discussion on the 2013 budget regarding the pay increases and the impact it would have on the overall budget. Budget line item #20000 for Supplies will be put back into each department and still stay within the \$75,000 appropriation for 2013. Auditor McGuire will make the changes implemented by Council and email out to members for review before the October 2, 2012 adoption date.

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