

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**March 5, 2013**

The Whitley County Council met in a regular session on Tuesday March 5, 2013 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Tom Western, Kim Wheeler, Jim Bayman, Glen LaRue, Bill Overdeer, John Barrett and Paula Reimers. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Pam Smith, George Schrumpf, Brandon Forrester, Mark Hodges, Shawn Beard, Alan Tio, Brett Myers and Otto Boschet.

Chairman Western brought the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER CUM BRIDGE FUND:** Brandon Forrester, County Engineer, gave the Council a handout showing the comparisons of increasing the Cum Bridge Fund. The funding he wants will keep the current program of replacing two bridges a year throughout Whitley County. After discussion the matter was tabled for further review on re-establishing the Cum Bridge Fund.

**IN THE MATTER OF PROJECT UPDATES:** Sheriff Hodges gave an update to the County Council on all the projects that involved his departments. First was the hole plugging mandated by the Fire Marshall from his last inspection of the jail. The holes have all been addressed in the walls, floors and ceilings and will be re-inspected at a later date for compliancy. The jail door opening system is almost complete. The cameras and intercoms were installed in the dayrooms the week of February 25 and Sheriff Hodges, Marc Gatton and Sean Martin will review a demo of the system in the Indianapolis office the week of March 13. The basement squad room is being remodeled to provide for a meeting/training room.

**IN THE MATTER OF VIDEO CONFERENCING:** Sheriff Hodges reported that Whitley County is in the early stages of implementing video conferencing. Three bids have gone out for purchasing the equipment that would be necessary to equip the jail and courthouse facilities. Hodges explained the cost saving of not having to transport the prisoner from the jail facility and also from other Counties and State facilities for a brief hearing in front of the Judge. More information will be presented on this project at a later date.

**IN THE MATTER OF INMATE VIDEO VISITATION:** Sheriff Hodges is implementing Video Visitations for the inmates. Instead of the current all day visitation on Saturdays by cell blocks this will allow for visitations anytime within allotted jail hours. There will be six pods in the lobby that are channeled to the six pods in the inmate's dayrooms. The cost of the video visitation will be paid from the inmate's commissary funds like a normal phone call. This will help with the traffic and security of the jail.

**IN THE MATTER OF WHITLEY COUNT EDC:** Alan Tio gave the Council on update of the 2012 year for Economic Development. Whitley County showed \$52.05 million in investments for new or expanding businesses in 2012. This created 201 new jobs in the County. EDC has a 2013 work plan that includes business attraction for the County, Business retention and expansion, community development, legislative advocacy, marketing and communication, redevelopment and helping the small business and entrepreneurs throughout the entire County. Councilman Overdeer "Thanked" Alan for all his work that he and his staff have done for Whitley County. Alan also gave an update on the current revolving loans, amounts and obligations from current businesses.

**IN THE MATTER OF GROUP INSURANCE COVERAGE:** Commissioner Chairman George Schrumpf addressed the County issue of Group Insurance and how we are going to fund the coverage for the 2014 budget. Right now the financial group is looking at a 10-15% increase for coverage in 2014. The Commissioners are looking at coverage, deductibles and premiums to retain our grandfather status to remain self-insured. With no real commitment from the Federal Government it will be a waiting matter that will continue to be addressed and looked at again at budget time.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT:** Commissioner Chairman Schrumpf gave a report from the Commissioners meeting

- The 9-1-1 contract with Frontier was approved, it will have coverage throughout the area with portable systems if our service goes down
- Camp Samaritan & Fish Hatchery properties working with the State DNR to look at our options for use or give back to the State
- EDC update for 2012 from Alan Tio
- Interlocal Agreement with Allen County on the intersection of 900 S and Liberty Mills Road. Project will start this year.
- Michael Aylesworth – IDEM District Director introduction

- Jail and Work Release overcrowding issue needs to be addressed
- Highway Funding for 2014 from Legislative changes

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the February 5, 2013 County Council were reviewed, a motion by LaRue to approve as presented, seconded by Reimers and carried with a 5/0 vote, with Barrett and Western abstaining because of not being present. Next the special minutes from the December 29, 2012 meeting were addressed, a motion to approve as presented was made by Wheeler, seconded by Bayman and passed with a 4/0 vote from the attending Council members.

**SEE ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES FOR FIVE FUND TRANSFERS**

**REQUEST TO TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN A DEPARTMENTS BUDGET**

#1176 Highway

#27100 Calcium Chloride \$10,000 to #33005 Workers Comp \$10,000

Increase in the Workers Comp Insurance coverage. A motion to approve was made by Overdeer, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 7/0 vote from Council.

**IN THE MATTER OF RE-ESTABLISHING CUMULATIVE FUNDS:** Discussion on re-establishing the Cum Bridge Fund and the Cum Capital Funds effective for the 2014 tax year. Council member Reimers stated that she was against increasing the Cum Bridge because of the effect on the max levy rate but ok with increasing the Cum Capital Fund and appropriating the increase of revenue to help with the bridge fund. After discussion on what increase should be implemented a motion by Bayman to increase the current rate of .0162 Cum Capital to .0300 for the 2014 tax year, seconded by Overdeer and carried for approval with a 7/0 vote from the Council. Auditor McGuire will work on getting the advertisements to the papers for the Public Hearing. No changes for the will be made to the Cum Bridge Fund at this time.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Council member Bayman would like the Commissioners to address the take home policy on County vehicles to save on gas and mileage for County cars now that we are not passing down the vehicles to other departments.

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

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Thomas Western, Chairman

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Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman

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Jim Bayman

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Glen LaRue

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John Barrett

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William N. Overdeer

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Paula G. Reimers

Attest:

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Jennifer McGuire, Auditor