

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

April 2, 2013

The Whitley County Council met in a regular session on Tuesday April 2, 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, Karen Harpel, Loren Kravig, Michael Barton, Bill Smith, Ryan Wilson, Alan Tio, Cindy Barnett, Brett Myers and Otto Boschet.

Chairman Western brought the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the previous meeting March 5, 2013 were reviewed, a motion by LaRue to approve as presented, seconded by Reimers and carried with a 7/0 vote by Council.

IN THE MATTER OF PDQ WORKHOLDING ABATEMENT: Alan Tio from EDC, Loren Kravig from Region III-A and Karen Harpel from PDQ Workholding came before the Council with an Abatement request for ten years on Personal Property. The Personal Property will add a \$3.8 million dollar investment and add five additional jobs. Harpel stated this will add another product line to their manufacturing and they are looking at a 20% growth by the 3rd quarter. Councilman Overdeer stated that Redevelopment Commissioner previously signed a recommendation Resolution #2013-03 of approval for the project and made a motion to approve the Resolution #2013-04 as the designating body for approval, seconded by Reimer and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF WHITLEY COUNTY EXTENSION: Cindy Barnett reported on programs that were addressed recently at the Extension's Annual Meeting. The office is focusing on Agriculture this year and addressing the small farm throughout the County. Some of the highlighted programs are Communication Skills, Mater Gardeners, Dining with Diabetes and Travel Indiana for the Whitley County office. Barnett gave a list of programs that are being reduced because of lack of time and staffing for the Council. Cindy let the Council know that the Extension Newsletter that is published nine times a year is being done in house this will save time and money for the distribution and now is being emailed also.

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

- Rezoning approval in the Dunfee Jefferson Township area
- Extension Updates from Cindy Barnett
- Highway Truck Bids approved
- Request from Passages for \$25,000 from CEDIT
- South Whitley Community Public Library – name change
- Jail Project/Community Corrections overcrowding issue

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY TRUCK BID: Commissioner Schrumpf reported that the CEDIT Project #6 appropriation for the purchase of the County Highway truck will be distributed with the approval of the bids. The final cost of the total single axel truck was \$144,416 and the Highway would like to use the rest of the appropriation to purchase a diesel power washer in the amount of \$6979 and the overage will be paid for out of MVH Funds. After discussion a motion by Wheeler to approve with the change was made, seconded by Overdeer and carried with a 7/0 vote by Council. Wheeler requested from Michael Barton to review the equipment at the Highway and come up with a long range replacement schedule for the larger equipment being used because of risk management and liability to the County. Also discussed was the capability to use the same bid for a purchase of a second truck if done by December 31, 2013, Barton will check for the criteria needed to complete this.

IN THE MATTER OF COURTHOUSE UPGRADES: Commissioner Schrumpf explained that a request from Mark Sturtevant in Maintenance on an upgrade to the air conditional unit needed done at the Government Center to correct the airflow, the cost would range from \$36, 000 to \$38,000 but did not need to be done right away. After discussion this issue was tabled for further review. The Courthouse Improvements Project #8 from CEDIT is requesting to move ahead with the new carpet in the Courthouse and both the Court rooms, the entire project will be \$33,337. After discussion a motion to allow the expense was made by Reimers, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 7/0 vote. The cost for the painting will come from the Maintenance department budget appropriation.

IN THE MATTER OF WHEEL TAX AND SURTAX: The annual request from State in regards to the County’s Wheel Tax and Surtax rates was requested. After discussion, Whitley County does not want to make any changes at this time and will review again next year for any possible changes. A motion to stay at the same cost and fees for 2014 was made by LaRue, seconded by Reimers and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: The 2012Annual Jail Statistics were distributed to the Council by Sheriff Hodges for review. The Council welcomed Bill Smith to Whitley County for a startup of a new business endeavor. Auditor McGuire furnished 2013 tax rate comparisons and reported that the 2013 Tax bills will be mailed the second week in April for on time billing for 2012 pay 2013. The Cumulative Capital Fund will be re-advertised to correct the date for the Council meeting on May 7, 2013.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Thomas Western, Chairman

Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman

Jim Bayman

Glen LaRue

John Barrett

William N. Overdeer

Paula G. Reimers

Attest:

Jennifer McGuire, Auditor