

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**May 7, 2013**

The Whitley County Council met in a regular session on Tuesday May 7, 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, Loren Kravig, Michael Barton, Alan Tio, Jason Brooks, Doug Fahl, Steve Holloway, David Lehman, Robin Wright, Kay Fleck, Tammy Nickolson, Alice Anderson, Scott Werstler, Holly Hicks, Heather Ward, Lois Cannon, Jody Hollenbaugh, Mark Hodges, Brett Myers and Otto Boschet.

Chairman Western brought the meeting to order.

First on the agenda was the Public Hearing to re-establish the Cumulative Capital Development Fund to \$.03 on each 100 of assessed value, said rate will be levied beginning with taxes for 2013 payable in 2014. Proof of advertisements in two papers on April 17 and April 24, 2013 in the Post & Mail and the Churubusco News to meet requirements of notification to taxpayers were completed. A motion was made by Bayman to adopt the change, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 7/0 vote. At this time the Public Hearing was closed

**IN THE MATTER CHROMASOURCE ABATEMENT:** Jason Brooks, from ChromaSource and Alan Tio from EDC presented a new tax abatement for Personal Property to the Council in the amount of \$1.1 million dollars in investments. The equipment would retain 110 employees and create 12 new jobs in the process. The equipment will help accurately reproduce colors and meet the time requirements from vendors. After discussion and a favorable recommendation from the Redevelopment Commission a motion to allow Resolution #2013-06 for the 10 year abatement was made by Overdeer, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 7/0 vote from Council.

**IN THE MATTER OF RED STAR MANUFACTURING:** Scott Werstler addressed the County Council for an abatement request on Real Estate and Personal Property. The Real Estate would invest approximately \$180,000 to the existing building for additional manufacturing floor space and the equipment cost would be \$91,000 for a HAAS CNC mill and Ram EDM for injection mold making. Red Star has been involved in our small business revolving loan fund for startup and has doubled in sales last year. A motion by Reimers to allow Resolution #2013-07 for a ten year abatement on both Real Estate and Personal Property, seconded by LaRue and carried with a 7/0 vote. Councilman Wheeler commended Mr. Werstler on the beautiful building and complex at Red Star Manufacturing located in Larwill.

**IN THE MATTER OF CEDIT REQUEST:** David Lehman from Passages spoke on behalf of their request from Whitley County CEDIT to contribute to the Creative Learning Center development. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that the Commissioners gave a favorable recommendation for the expenditure out of CEDIT Project #2 for On Site/Off Site Projects and feels this one time request is a large impact on the economic development of Whitley County with Passages employing 182 employees and 85% of them reside in Whitley County. After discussion a motion to allow the disbursement of \$25,000 out of CEDIT was made by Reimers, seconded by LaRue and carried for approval with a 7/0 vote by Council.

**IN THE MATTER OF COURT STAFFING:** Judge Doug Fahl addressed the County Council to ask for a current part-time employee be moved to full-time and the position would cover both the Circuit and Superior Courts. The large increase in cases has shown a shortfall in staffing the positions. The funding for this position will come from reimbursement of Title IV-D incentive funds. After discussion a motion by Wheeler to allow this change from Part-Time status to Full-time, seconded by Reimers and carried with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF SECURITY SOFTWARE:** Sheriff Hodges and Jody Hollenbaugh presented a quote from Williams Electronics for an upgrade on the current software and server that controls the entrance to all buildings by the employee badges. Hollenbaugh said the server has needed to be replaced for some time and the additional license will allow her and Pam Smith County Coordinator to use the system at the same time. With discussion on were the funding for this should come from a motion to pay for the server and upgrade out of CEDIT was made by Overdeer, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 6/1 vote, with Bayman voting against. Bayman agrees with the disbursement but not with it being funded out of CEDIT.

**IN THE MATTER OF WCCS BOOMERANG BACKPACKS:** Lois Cannon and Heather Ward presented a request for funding a backpack distribution program for elementary aged students. The current program only includes the Whitley Consolidated schools at this time but they hope to expand. The Council felt this is a great project but the funding source should come from the school

or more Federal support than County Tax dollars. With lack of support for a motion there was not decision to contribute to the request of funding for the project.

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

- Special Health Insurance Meeting Monday May 13 at 10am
- Separate Attorney for Health Department in the 2014 Budget
- Introduced Holly Hicks Intern for Human Resources
- CEDIT Report for all the incorporated districts for Whitley County

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY HIGHWAY:** Michael Barton, Highway Supervisor, updated the Council on equipment at the Highway and what equipment he felt should be replaced over the next few years. Discussion on the increase of funding from the Wheel Tax/Surtax changes in Legislation and how this would impact the operations at the Highway. Discussion on the current fee of \$10.00 for passenger cars was address and if this should be increase for next year or left the same. Auditor McGuire will look at surrounding Counties and the decision will be tabled until the Council June meeting on June 4, 2013.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the County Council meeting held April 2, 2013 were reviewed, a motion to approve was made by LaRue, seconded by Overdeer and Reimers needed a correction to “Master” gardeners in the fourth paragraph. After noting the correction the motion passed with a vote of 7/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFER RESOLUTION:** Auditor McGuire presented a Transfer Resolution in the amount of \$7,874.63 from Surplus Tax to County General and explained this was expired Surplus Tax unclaimed. A motion to allow the transfer was made by Bayman, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 7/0 vote.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Monthly Whitley County Community Corrections Program update for April & May. Balance Funds Report for April showing balances before Spring Tax collection. CF-1 compliancy forms will be presented to the Council for approval of 2013 tax abatements.

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