

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL
December 3, 2013

The Whitley County Council met in a regular session on Tuesday December 3, 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, Bill Overdeer, John Barrett and Paula Reimers. Glen LaRue was absent. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Commissioner Tom Rethlake, Sheriff Mark Hodges, Deputy Marc Gatton, Gregg Hockemeyer, Christie Barkley – Post & Mail, Michael Barton and Mary Hartman.

Vice Chairman Wheeler brought the meeting to order and conducted the Pledge. At this time the normal County Council meeting was recessed to conduct a Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing was advertised in the Post & Mail and the Churubusco News on November 20, 2013 stating an Additional Appropriation Resolution for the Highway Fund #1176 in the amount of \$341,000. No one from the public was present for comments so at this time the Public Hearing was closed. The regular County Council meeting was reconvened.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: The Additional Appropriation for the Highway Fund #1176 was reviewed. \$310,000 will be used for Supplies, \$6,000 Other Services and \$25,000 will be in Capital Outlay for a total request of \$341,000. After discussion a motion to allow the Additional was made by Bayman, seconded by Reimers and carried with a 5/0 vote at this time with Western and Overdeer late for the meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY UPDATE: Michael Barton, Highway Supervisor, gave a quick update to the Council on the 2013 Projects from the Highway. With the weather remaining nice they Highway are still hauling stones. Both large projects Lincolnway West and County Line roads are complete.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Commissioner Rethlake gave a report from the Commissioners meeting

- Attorney Sigler is still working on the deed to Tri-Lakes Park, but wanting it to be completed for the 2013 year so Thorncreek can continue work on the new well.
- Window units being installed at Community Corrections by the Maintenance department and Redman's
- Dec 13, 2013 will be the Employee Recognition Luncheon for the County
- No mileage will be paid to employees for trips from Home to Work and the County Policy will be amended
- Accident at #30 involving a client of the Community Corrections moped accident
- CEDIT 2014/2015 Plan approved by the Commissioners with a 2-1 vote. Commissioner Rethlake voted against because of the Humane Society not complying with request for Financial Reports.
- Discussion for the Jail expanding and what work has been done to look into the project by the Commissioners.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The Minutes from the November 5, 2013 were reviewed. Council member Reimers wants the "???" marks removed from the second bullet point of the Commissioners report. After noting the change a motion to approve the Minutes was made by Barrett, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 5/0 vote with LaRue abstaining and Overdeer still not present for the vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDC BOARD: Councilman Wheeler wanted to address the County Council appointment to the EDC Board for 2014. Wheeler has been on the Board for six years and now wants to be removed. Paula Reimers has volunteered for the appointment. After discussion a vote to appoint Reimers for the next three year term starting in 2014, motion by Bayman to approve, seconded by LaRue and carried with a 5/0 vote with Reimers abstaining and Overdeer absent.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT PENSION: Councilman Overdeer updated the Council on the finding from Umbaugh and Associates and that the pension fund was a sustainable fund with the 3% from employees and County's contribution. The fund is now vested in the stock market more than bonds. The question that needs to be reviewed is if the "Elected Official" is the only person changing from 10 years to 8 years with the term limits and not all deputies. The Sheriff's Merit Board voted 3/2 on this subject. A final determination by Council was tabled until the January meeting to discuss with the County Attorney some language in the change, review figures of what is being contributed by the County for the funding and review previous changes made to the pension in prior years.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Discussion on the ability of establishing a Fund allocated to a building fund for when the Jail Expansion work is ready some monies are set back for the project. Deputy Gatton will give his deputy vehicle request at the January meeting after gathering more information. Auditor McGuire gave an update on Fall Distribution for the County taxes stating December 20, 2013 the County will distribute to the schools, libraries and townships, breakdown of \$20000 Supply purchases by Department for 2013 and the update on amount collected in the #1216 Ineligible Homestead Fund for Fall collection.

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