

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
March 15, 2010

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 15, 2010 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Michael D. Schrader, Vice Chairman Don Amber and member Tom Rethlake. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, County Attorney Dan Sigler, Gene Heckman, Museum Curator Dani Tippman, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, Terry Smith, Tim Pitts, Lori Shipman, Sanitarian Scott Wagner, Landon Wagner and Post and Mail reporter Chris Meyers. Chairman Schrader called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND VENDOR PAYABLES: The minutes of March 1 and vendor payables for March 15, 2010 were approved as presented.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Chairman Schrader reported that Whitley County will receive an energy grant for lighting replacement in the jail. The grant will be awarded on March 26 in Indianapolis. A Chamber of Commerce luncheon will be held March 19 and will feature City and County representatives.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Dan Sigler reported that no response has been received from the attorney for Parkview Hospital regarding the EMS Agreement. Sigler has sent letters to the Department of Natural Resources regarding the properties being given to Whitley County. Discussion was held on the appointment to the District Authority of the Tri-Lakes Regional Sewer District. At a previous meeting Steve Heaston was nominated for this position, but he felt it was a conflict of interest. After further clarification, it is noted that Heaston could serve. With that clarification, Rethlake moved, seconded by Amber to nominate Steve Heaston to the District Authority of the Tri- Lakes Regional Sewer District. The motion carried 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF GOVERNMENT CENTER DISPLAY: Museum Curator Dani Tippman was present to offer display cases for Civil War items within the Government Center. The displays would be changed periodically. Vice Chairman Amber was assigned to work with Tippman on placement, etc.

IN THE MATTER OF ANTI-TAX RALLY: Terry Smith was present with a request to use the courthouse property for an Anti-Tax Rally on April 15, 2010. Smith was directed to file a written request with Coordinator Crickmore and the matter would be considered at a later date.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Michael Barton was present to explain that a Lease Agreement had been negotiated with Baystone Financial Group for the purchase of a new highway truck. The lease specifies that \$47,087.38 will be paid over the next three years. Barton explained that he is working with NIPSCO on their lines being in County Right of Way and the clear marking of those lines. Currently, the Highway Department is being billed \$1900 for hitting a gas line.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR REPORT: Amy Crickmore presented a request from the Peabody Public Library for their Summer Concert Series June through August. They are requesting use of the gazebo, lawn and electricity to the gazebo. Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake, to approve the request. The motion carried 3/0. Crickmore explained that while on a Workman's Compensation leave, an employee had problems with a medication prescribed by a physician, causing the employee to miss more work than originally planned. The employee had to use two sick days to cover the extended time. The employee is requesting these two days be given back since the reason for the absence was due to incorrect medication. Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake, to add back the two sick days lost. The motion carried 3/0. Discussion was held on changing the effective date of health insurance coverage for newly hired employees. Chairman Schrader moved that health insurance coverage for newly hired employees begins the first day of the month following thirty days from employment date. The motion was seconded by Rethlake and passed 3/0. Crickmore presented a request from an employee who had been ordered to the Bowen Center (not related to employment) for treatment in 2009. Recently, the Bowen Center was added as a counseling center for county employees. The employee is asking to be reimbursed expenses incurred in 2009. After further discussion, Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake, to deny the request. The motion carried 3/0. Crickmore reported on the process of choosing a cell phone vendor. She has done a Needs Assessment, but requests more time before recommending a vendor. Sheriff Hodges has requested that \$27.00/month be reimbursed to him for his personal blackberry. Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake, to allow Hodges to be reimbursed \$27.00/month after presenting his personal cell phone bill to the auditor. The motion carried 3/0. Crickmore reported that she would like to schedule a representative to do supervisor training. The cost would be \$450.00 for three hours.

IN THE MATTER OF JAIL REPAIRS: Sheriff Hodges was present to discuss the jail elevator and repairs needed. The cost of the repairs is estimated to be \$2645.85. Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake, to allow \$2645.85 for the jail elevator repair. The motion carried 3/0. Hodges reported that both chillers are out of the heating/cooling system in the jail. If something is not repaired/replaced soon, there will be no air conditioning when needed. Representatives of Havel/Emcor were present also during this discussion. After discussion of the matter, Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake, to replace one compressor chiller (most convenient) at a cost of \$10,988.75. The motion carried 3/0. This expense will come from the jail budget.

IN THE MATTER OF WELL VARIANCE REQUEST: Sanitarian Scott Wagner presented a well variance request for Landon Wagner. Landon Wagner would like to construct a new addition to an existing garage which would place the existing well casing within ten feet of the structure. Along with the request was a letter from a local well drilling and repair vendor, that the new addition would not hamper service on the well. After further discussion, Rethlake moved, seconded by Amber to allow the well variance. The motion passed 3/0.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Michael D. Schrader, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake, Member

Attest:

Linda J. Gerig, Auditor