

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 21, 2010

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday June 21, 2010 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. In attendance were Chairman Michael D. Schrader, Vice Chairman Don Amber and Tom Rethlake. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Attorney Dan Sigler, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, County Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, Terry Smith, James Schrimper, Community Corrections Project Manager Paula Worden, Gene Heckman, John Slavich, Donna Ternet, Melody Lehman, Marla Fahl, Leslie Rentschler, Sandy Slone, Judy Moeller, Richard Eckert 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 CLAIMS: The minutes of June 7 and the vendor claims for June 21 were approved as presented.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Dan Sigler explained that the Economic Development Commission would be meeting July 6, 2010 and those members would need to be reappointed. Chairman Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to reappoint Tom Rethlake, Doug Fahl and Kent Hoffman to the Economic Development Commission. The motion passed unanimously. The appointment of a county commissioner still needs to be made to the Tri Lakes Sewer District Appeals Board. This Board hears appeals or remonstrance against actions of the Sewer District. Rethlake moved, seconded by Schrader, to appoint Commissioner Amber to this Board. The motion passed 3/0. Notification has been delivered to Sigler that Verizon has filed suit in the amount of \$817 for damage to phone lines. Sigler has investigated and finds that the address mentioned does not exist in Whitley County. He was instructed to send a response to Verizon's attorney stating such. Sigler remains busy with Junk and Trash Violations. The attorney from Parkview has not delivered a new agreement for EMS services with Parkview Hospital. During Sigler's report, Mr. James Schrimper and Highway Supervisor Michael Barton discussed a right-of-way obstruction located at 2191 Fox Drive. Pictures were provided showing the obstruction which was built by the home owner at the address stated. The obstruction appears to be a hazard as it obstructs a portion of Fox Drive and cuts down on visibility. Sigler was instructed to notify the homeowner that the obstruction needs to be removed. Barton will also post warning signs along the roadway. An issue of a tree being in an easement in Spear's Addition to Crooked Lake was also discussed. A property owner is concerned about the condition of the tree and is asking who has responsibility to maintain the tree. The easement is unimproved Lake Street in the original plat. There is no county ownership involved and adjoining property owners would be responsible for the tree. Another easement issue was discussed with Melody Lehman on a property in Dunfee. Lehman is concerned that her elderly parent's property will be land locked due the sale of neighboring property. It was discovered that there is a Dedicated Easement to the property and it is lawful to use for ingress and egress. The easement may be improved at the owner's expense.

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION TO VACATE: Attorney Terry Smith was present representing Santis Corp. and Richard Conrow. Smith is petitioning to vacate a 50 foot wide unimproved public right-of-way situated between lots 9 and 10 of Flowers First Addition. All adjoining land owners were notified by certified mail and electric and natural gas suppliers were also notified. No negative responses were received. No members of the public voiced concerns. Ordinance No. 2010-08 was introduced granting the petition to vacate. After further discussion, Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake, to approve and sign Ordinance No. 2010-08. The motion passed 3/0. (See Ordinance No. 2010-08 on file in the auditor's office)

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR: Amy Crickmore has been notified by Grant Administrator Lori Shipman that a public hearing is to be held for an OCRA Planning Grant application to complete a feasibility study in Coesse with regards to sanitary sewer and drinking water services. That public hearing will be held July 6, 2010 at 1:00 pm. Invoices for services performed at the jail concerning the new phone system were presented. Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake that the invoices would not be paid from the jail's budget. The motion passed 3/0. Crickmore explained that the employees of the Economic Development Corporation are interested in being part of the county's health insurance plan. They will make full reimbursement for the monthly premium. Discussion continues on the establishment of a Sick Pay Bank and how it will be administered. There are on-going problems with some of the new cell phones, but Crickmore is working with the supplier to have the problems resolved.

IN THE MATTER OF OFFICE SPACE REQUEST: Sandy Slone of the Whitley County Literacy Council, along with representatives of other local agencies, was present to request the use of office space to be used as a "point of entry" for those organizations. They are currently housed in the Marshall Building, but have been asked to move. Several representatives along with Community Corrections Project Manager Paula Worden discussed the connections these

organizations have with each and how beneficial it would be to have one location for recipients to visit. The services needed and who could provide them would be offered at that time. Slone was directed to calculate the square footage and other services needed and report back. The commissioners will also check with State Board of Accounts to see if the “in kind” contribution is allowed.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY REPORT: Michael Barton was present to discuss the progress of the summer work program.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Commissioners reported on meetings attended and projects they are working on.

IN THE MATTER OF INSURANCE PREMIUM: Auditor Linda Gerig asked for permission to use funds from the health insurance trust to make July’s premium payment. Rethlake moved, seconded by Amber, to allow the July premium for health insurance to be paid from the trust. 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