

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JULY 6, 2010

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday July 6, 2010 due to the July 4th holiday being observed on Monday July 5, 2010. The meeting was held 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 Tom Rethlake. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Attorney Dan Sigler, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Lori Shipman, Engineer Brandon Forrester, Alan Tio, Lori Shipman, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, Gene Heckman, Ben Beer, Jim Schrimper, Tom O'Neil, Dave Lehman, Vicky Schrader, Chad Burch, Patton Cox and Post and Mail reporter Chris Meyers. Chairman Schrader called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was recessed by Chairman Schrader in order to hold a public hearing, as advertised, for an OCRA Plan Grant for a Feasibility Study for Coesse. Lori Shipman conducted the hearing. With there being no public comment from those in attendance, the public hearing was closed. Chairman Schrader reconvened the commissioner meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND VENDOR CLAIMS: The minutes of June 21 and the vendor claims for July 6, 2010 were approved as presented.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Dan Sigler reported on the status of various Junk and Trash Ordinance violations. The Economic Development Commission met on July 6, 2010 to review a request for Revenue Bonds for Micropulse. The request will move on to county council on July 7, 2010.

IN THE MATTER OF THE MUSEUM FURNACE: Vice Chairman Amber reported that the final bill on the new furnace has been negotiated with the installer. The remainder of the invoice will be discounted by \$50 and the installer will carry a five-year warranty on the furnace.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR REPORT: Amy Crickmore reported on the new law that took effect July 1 allowing employees to possess firearms and ammunition in their vehicle on the property of most county offices. The employee handbook will be updated to contain this provision. Crickmore presented a request from an employee who has fifty-two hours of unused vacation accrued, but the current work schedule would not allow that time to be used before the employee's anniversary date. The request was to extend the time to use the hours until December 31, 2010. After discussion of the matter, Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake, to allow 37.5 hours to be held over, but the remaining hours would be lost. The motion carried 3/0. It should be the responsibility of all department managers to see that earned time is taken as stated in the policy. A request to use county facilities was presented by Crickmore for the 2010 Christmas Celebration inside the courthouse and lawn on the south side of the courthouse on December 3 and December 4, 2010. The request was approved. Crickmore reported on a recent survey taken on the establishment of a Sick Day Bank. Sixty-three employees would donate if they could chose the recipient, twenty would give to the Bank at the beginning of the year and fifty-seven employees would not wish to participate.

IN THE MATTER OF FOREIGN TRADE ZONE: Alan Tio was present to explain that the City of Fort Wayne is expanding their Foreign Trade Zone and that Whitley County could now be included in that Zone. Tio explained that the Economic Development Corporation will help with the application process and that a letter of support is being requested from the commissioners. Recovery Zone Bonds, which are tax exempt, may be available in the amount of \$1.8 million dollars, but it is a one time offer. The commissioners would need to establish the Recovery Zone Area.

IN THE MATTER OF PASSAGES: Tom O'Neil and Dave Lehman from Passages were present to discuss the possibility of Whitley County applying for a Community Focus Funds Grant on behalf of Passages to assist them in relocating to the Lehmborg Building. Passages is currently housed in the Marshall Building, but have been given notice that they will need to move in the next year or so because of the New Tech School starting in the Marshall Building.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Michael Barton was present with a map of summer road work being done. Barton stated that grants for road recycling are being explored and that possible money could be recuperated for work already done. Barton reported that Attorney Dan Sigler has requested that a letter be sent from the highway department to the property owner on Fox Drive instructing them to remove the road obstruction that they have placed there. Fox Drive has a 30-foot right-of-way and the property owner is obstructing that right-of-way.

IN THE MATTER OF EASEMENT ISSUE: Engineer Brandon Forrester explained an issue with a platted easement on Bair Road at Shriner Lake. The issue involves the unimproved Lake Street as platted. Forrester will do a site visit and report back July 19, 2010.

IN THE MATTER OF HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE: Chad Burch and Patton Cox were present to discuss the past year's activity of the county's health insurance plan. Employees continue to use the plan wisely which helps keeps the overall costs down. Burch and Cox discussed the new Health Care Reform and answered questions. This new reform will continue to bring about change and they will help the county stay informed. After the lengthy discussion, Rethlake moved, seconded by Amber, to allow the Economic Development Corporation to join the county's health care plan. Premiums will be paid by the Corporation. The motion carried 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