

## **COMMISSIONER MINUTES**

### **MARCH 2, 2009**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 2 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Tom Rethlake, Vice Chairman Michael D. Schrader and Don Amber. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, County Attorney Dan Sigler, Economic Development Commission President Alan Tio, Jeff Hinen, Richard Krider, Planning Director David Sewell, Larry Weiss, Highway Supervisor Brian VanEmon, John LeFever, GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold, Jennifer Zartman-Romano, Chris Tomlinson, Gene Heckman, Matthew Schomburg, Dave Schulenberg and Post and Mail reporter TJ Hemlinger. Chairman Rethlake called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND VENDOR PAYABLES:** The minutes of February 2 and February 17, 2009 and the vendor payables for March 2, 2009 were approved as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT:** Dan Sigler presented a document prepared by Drainage Board Attorney Earl Tison designating the duties of the county surveyor to the county engineer under Indiana drainage statute. Sigler recommended that a term limit of one year be added to the document before it is accepted by the commissioners. Sigler also discussed a memo from the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance concerning monthly distributions of CEDIT funds to the county as authorized by the State Budget Agency. Sigler feels these distributions to the units that receive CEDIT funds should still follow the agreements that have been established and distributed in two payments per year.

**IN THE MATTER OF BOARD APPOINTMENT:** The commissioners received the recommendation of John Johnson as a citizen member of the Whitley County Plan Commission to fill the term of Joel Vance. The term runs to January 1, 2012. Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to accept the recommendation and appoint John Johnson to the Whitley County Plan Commissioner. The motion passed 3/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF CARPET REPLACEMENT:** Chairman Rethlake reported that Maintenance Supervisor Dennis Fenker is recommends replacing the carpet in Judge Heuer's office and the court bailiff and patching the carpet in the circuit court room. This would cost \$1778. Rethlake will take the recommendation to county council.

**IN THE MATTER OF INSURANCE UPDATE:** John LeFever of Star Insurance was present to give an overview of the current policies in place for property coverage, automobile, professional liability, law enforcement, public official and workers compensation. LeFever explained each policy and answered questions from the Board.

**IN THE MATTER OF WEBSITE:** Chris Tomlinson of gonink Design & Print spoke to the Board on his qualifications as a website designer. Tomlinson presented a quote for designing a county website. The matter was discussed in length, but no decisions were made.

**IN THE MATTER OF FSSA OFFICE:** Matthew Schomburg of the Family & Social Services Administration (FSSA) spoke on Indiana's Eligibility Modernization Program. Schomburg presented information on the Voluntary Community Assistance Network (V-Can). V-Can is a formal network of service providers and community organizations that provide information about and access to the ways to apply for Cash Assistance (TANF), Food Stamps and Medicaid services. V-Can members can offer access to a computer or phone to apply for or manage benefits. Thorncreek Township Trustee, Gene Heckman, stated he feels this could be a service that trustees could also offer in their homes. The commissioners will study the V-Can membership and make their decision on March 16, 2009.

**IN THE MATTER OF COLUMBIA CITY TWO-MILE JURISDICTIONAL AREA:** Columbia City Plan Commission President Larry Weiss and David Sewell, Executive Director of the Columbia City/Whitley County Joint Planning & Building Department were present to discuss the possible expansion of the Two-Mile Jurisdictional Area. This matter had been brought to the Board in November of 2006 and no approval was given. Weiss explained that the new proposal had been adjusted since discussion in 2006 as requested. After much discussion, the commissioners stated that input was needed from City Plan Commission on how the two entities could work together on this and come to an agreement on the requested change. No decision was made at this time.

**IN THE MATTER OF DRAINAGE PROBLEM:** Highway Supervisor Brian VanEmon and David Schulenberg were present to discuss a drainage issue on the Schulenberg property. VanEmon notified Schulenberg about using county right-of-way as a holding pond to keep water from entering his fields. VanEmon stated there is an ordinance regarding ponds which states they must be 75 feet from the edge of the road. The situation is causing issues on 700 East, 600 East and 900 South. The highway department has plans to widen the berm on 700 East which will lessen Schulenberg's holding area on 700 East. After a full discussion of the matter, Schulenberg offered to pay for guard rails to in be installed. The matter was taken under advisement until commissioners could make a site visit.

**IN THE MATTER OF BOARD APPOINTMENT:** Auditor Gerig explained that current Alcoholic Beverage Board member, Gary Gordon, was due for reappointment. Gordon has expressed interest in continuing on the Board. Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to reappoint Gary Gordon to a one-year term, expiring January, 2010, to the Whitley County Alcoholic Beverage Board.

**IN THE MATTER OF CIRCUIT COURT ANSWERING SYSTEM:** Coordinator Amy Crickmore explained that circuit court would like to have an answering system installed in the bailiff's office. The cost would be \$330. The request was approved.

**IN THE MATTER OF FIXED ASSETS CONSULTANT:** Auditor Gerig presented a proposal from Michael Nielson of Government Fixed Asset Services, Inc. for consulting services for GASB 34 for 2009. The proposal is in the amount of \$1950 plus travel expenses. Nielson assists with the preparation of the capital asset consolidated summary and asset depreciation/non-depreciation that is required for the State Board of Accounts' annual auditing. Approval was given to accept the proposal.

**IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT REQUESTS:** The following requests were granted:

- Verizon Work Order 2320-9P009DB-002 at 7825E 300N
- Verizon Work Order 9P009DB-3 at 1990 825E
- Verizon Work Order 3F0A0AK on 900E south of 600N & 600N west of 900E

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

#### **WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Tom Rethlake, Chairman

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Michael D. Schrader, Vice Chairman

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Don Amber, Commissioner

Attest:

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Linda J. Gerig, Auditor