

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MAY 18, 2009

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 18, 2009 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, Michael Barton, Cathy Broxon-Ball, Kathy Shively, Scott Wagner, Rosemary Brown, Mark Hodges, Scott Jones, Dave Sewell, John Barrett, Scott Smith, Sean Martin, Marc Gatton, Mike Engle, Nadean Eldien, Joan Miller, Janet Hindbaugh, Patty Cook, Linda Bayman, Tammy Howard, Cindy Greer, Vicki Burney, Paula Worden, Douglas Jones, Vicky Schrader, Brandon Forrester, Dan Weigold, Karen Blake 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 CLAIMS: The minutes of May 4, May 7 and vendor claims for May 18, 2009 were approved as presented.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Dan Sigler presented an amended Inter-Government Agreement between the Board of Commissioners and the Whitley County Consolidated School Corporation. This same Agreement has been forwarded to Mr. Ben Gates as attorney for the school corporation. Sigler will report further when more discussion has been held on the Agreement. Sigler also reported that the drainage law suit in Churubusco has been assigned a new judge. Scott Wagner spoke regarding the requested change to the Junk and Trash Ordinance to include all parcels. After further discussion, Rethlake moved to leave the current Ordinance in place. Amber moved to second the motion and the motion passed 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF PROPERTY FRAUD ALERT: Recorder Rosemary Brown was present to inform the Board about property fraud and what measures her office has taken to prevent it. Property Fraud occurs when someone illegally uses a property for financial gain by recording fraudulent documents making it appear they own the property. Brown explained that every property owner can subscribe to a free service via the internet to register their property and receive notification if any documents are recorded in her office pertaining to that property. Brown explained further, that through her software vendor, the documents in her office are now on line. This is a remote access product and allows 24-hour access to the documents. There is a cost associated with the internet access and a username and password are necessary.

IN THE MATTER OF EMPLOYEE HANDBOOKS: Department heads and elected officials were present to receive the new Employee Handbooks. County Coordinator Amy Crickmore explained a few of the changes and commissioners fielded questions.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY ROAD PLAN: Highway Supervisor Michael Barton was present with a new Road Plan and discussion was held on the subject. Barton would like to schedule a meeting with the public to make them aware of the projects that are planned.

IN THE MATTER OF VACATION REQUEST: Sheriff Mark Hodges was present to discuss an issue of unused vacation time of a department employee. The employee's anniversary date has passed and was unable to use previously earned vacation. Hodges brought a request to allow the time to be carried over or pay out the time. It was noted that the carry-over provision is only allowable for the 4 on/2 off scheduled employees. After further discussion, Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake to deny all requests and the unused vacation time is considered lost. The motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DUNFEE RESIDENT: Sanitarian Scott Wagner was present to ask for guidance on a matter in Dunfee. A resident's home there has burned and the resident would like to replace the structure. The home was connected to an illegal septic system and is asking to reconnect to the system. Discussion was held pertaining to Aqua Indiana being near Dunfee, but not close to the burned out property. Wagner was instructed to notify the residents of Dunfee about the potential of connecting to Aqua Indiana's sewer system.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY FACILITY USE: Amy Crickmore presented a request from the Columbia City Elks Lodge to use the courthouse lawn and gazebo for a Flag Day Ceremony on June 13 at noon. They are also requesting electricity to be supplied. Maintenance Dennis Fenker will be notified of the electrical supply request. Schrader moved to approve the request after the approval of Fenker. Amber seconded the motion and it passed with a 3/0 vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tom Rethlake, Chairman

Michael D. Schrader, Vice Chairman

Don Amber, Member

Attest:

Linda J. Gerig, Auditor