

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**AUGUST 3, 2009**

The Whitley County Commissioners met Monday August 3, 2009 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. In attendance was Chairman Tom Rethlake, Vice Chairman Michael D. Schrader and member Don Amber. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, County Attorney Dan Sigler, GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold, Engineer Brandon Forrester, Planning Director David Sewell, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, Brooks Langeloh, EMS Director Duane Ginder, Mike Peterson, Rebecca Rowan, Amy Dimberior, Lisa Schanbacher, Alan Tio and 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 July 20, 2009 and vendor claims for August 3, 2009 were approved as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT:** Dan Sigler spoke of a lawsuit filed by Lawrence Bickle against the Whitley County Sheriff's Department. Bickle's suit stems from incarceration in the Whitley County Jail in March 2006 and states emotional damage, etc. Sigler received a Reservation of Rights letter from Columbia Casualty stating there may not be coverage under the current policy to cover this complaint. Columbia Casualty will proceed with defending the County until the coverage is clarified. Sigler reported that the home in Churubusco that had flooding issues and owners are suing the Town of Churubusco and Whitley County, is now in foreclosure. Sigler will report further on August 17, 2009. Sigler presented a Utility Relocation Agreement between the Whitley County Board of Commissioners and United Telephone Corporation of Indiana, d/b/a/Embarq Telephone Services. Embarq has utilities located within a platted 20 foot utility easement along the North side of Park 30 Drive in Park 30 Business Center. The Agreement states that at this time the location of the utilities is not a concern, but if in the future it does need relocated, the County will be responsible for the costs. Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to accept and sign the Agreement. The motion passed with a 3/0 vote. Sigler explained that after conferring with the Whitley County School Corporation's attorney, changing the agreement for the fuel facility to a three-year term would be agreeable. The Inter-Government Agreement between the Board of Commissioners of Whitley County, Indiana and the Whitley County Consolidated School Corporation was presented for signatures. Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to approve and sign the Agreement as presented. The motion carried 3/0. Sigler will present the Agreement to Ben Gates to obtain signatures from the school board members.

**IN THE MATTER OF PARKVIEW WELLNESS GROUP:** Parkview Health and Parkview Workplace Wellness will partner with Whitley County Government to create and implement an effective wellness program that will strengthen the workplace environment. The purpose of the strategic initiative is to create healthy employees who are more productive for Whitley County Government. The professional services were recommended in three options.

Option 1

- Health Risk Appraisal with Telephonic Consultation
- Executive Summary
- Two coaching sessions per employee
- Winning at Losing Weight Management Program
- Customized Exercise/Nutrition Incentive Program

Approximately \$150.00 per employee

Option 2

- Health Risk Appraisal with Telephonic Consultation
- Executive Summary
- Two coaching sessions per employee

Approximately \$100.00 per employee

Option 3

- Health Risk Appraisal with Telephonic Consultation
- Executive Summary

Approximately \$60.00 per employee

Each employee covered under the current health insurance plan has \$500 for wellness care. These costs would be covered by that wellness benefit. If by chance, all \$500 of the wellness benefit had been used, the plan could be written to have the \$500 apply to deductibles. By participating in the Wellness Plan, deductibles could be reduced. According to how the plan is written, it could be offered to part time employees. Chairman Rethlake suggested getting notification to staff members about participation and making a decision on August 17, 2009.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY WEBSITE:** A committee of Dan Weigold, Brandon Forrester, Amy Crickmore, Linda Gerig, David Sewell, Douglas Jones and Jennifer Baxter was formed to investigate the possibility of creating a website for Whitley County Government. The committee interviewed several different vendors and held long discussions with them. After much deliberation, Egov Strategies was selected by the committee. This vendor hosts several county websites and the committee feels will serve the needs of Whitley County. The cost of the construction of the website is \$25,000 plus start-up fees. Maintenance costs for the first year are being quoted at \$5090. The committee held several sessions discussing possible means of funding. CEDIT funds would be available and the committee feels the website meets the criteria for economic development. After further discussion, Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to support the use of CEDIT funds and take a favorable recommendation to county council. The motion passed 3/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF POSSIBLE VACATION:** Brooks Langeloh was present to discuss the possibility of vacating ground around Goose Lake Resort. The vacation, if granted, would clean up encroachments on surrounding property lines. The commissioners will make a site visit to become more familiar with the property lines.

**IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Supervisor Michael Barton was present to update the Board on recent road progress. Sixty-two miles have been completed leaving 28 miles to finish. Striping should start in the near future. Barton explained that he will be requesting county council to change the current foreman's position be a salaried position. He would also be requesting a second foreman's position.

**IN THE MATTER OF INCOME SURVEY:** EMS Director Duane Ginder was present to receive approval to start an income survey for an Office of Community Rural Affairs (OCRA) Grant for construction of a new EMS garage. The cost of the survey is estimated to be \$3500. Once this income survey is obtained, it can be used for application of grants for the next ten years. After further discussion, Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to allocate CEDIT funds not to exceed \$4000 for an income survey. The motion passed 3/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF MAXIMUS CONTRACT:** Auditor Gerig presented the renewal contract between MAXIMUS Consulting Services, Inc., and the County of Whitley. MAXIMUS gathers data from the county in order to recover costs attached to federal grant administration. In July, the county received \$20,700 and should receive three more payments before year's end. Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to choose the one-year contract amounting to \$5400. The motion passed 3/0. Year-end financial data for 2009 will be gathered with reimbursement coming in 2011.

**IN THE MATTER OF BOARD APPOINTMENT:** Planning Executive Director David Sewell presented a request for Jon Kissinger to be appointed to the Columbia City Plan Commission representing the 2-mile jurisdictional area of Columbia City. Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to appoint Jon Kissinger to the Columbia City Plan Commission. The motion passed 3/0.

**IN MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:**

- Commissioner Amber stated the need to investigate an ordinance for golf carts in the county.
- County Coordinator Amy Crickmore explained that the ATM machine located at the north entrance of the Government Center will be moved to the Whitley County Courthouse. Star Bank has informed the county that the machine has not been beneficial to them at the current location. It will cost \$300 to move the machine and \$500 to repair the floor. A separate phone line will be installed at the Courthouse. Crickmore was asked to check with other area banks to see if they had an interest in placing an ATM machine. Crickmore reported that all county e-mails have been converted to whitleygov.com. Two requests were presented for use of county facilities. The Whitley County Autumn Art Festival Committee will be placing a banner on the courthouse grounds from August 17 to September 12. Also, The parking lot at the Government Center will be used for Art Festival volunteers' parking on September 12.
- Chairman Rethlake reported that the 2010 EMS budget was discussed with Director Ginder and a proactive plan is being put in place for future funding. Lincoln Highway Association The construction of the new Equine Hospital in Coesse is resulting in septic issues. Scott Wagner is proceeding with investigating solutions.
- A project is being started on the Lincoln Highway corridor creating a geocaching education adventure. Historic information is being gathered that will be available on [www.indianalincolnhighway.com](http://www.indianalincolnhighway.com)

**IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT REQUEST:** A request from American Electric Power was approved for utility work at 6124 350E.

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, Member

Attest:

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Linda J. Gerig, Auditor