

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 due to the Labor Day Holiday being observed on Monday, September 7, 2009. The meeting was held at the South Whitley/Cleveland Township Public Library located in South Whitley, Indiana. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Tom Rethlake, Vice Chairman Michael D. Schrader and Don Amber. Also in attendance were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Attorney Dan Sigler, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, County Engineer Brandon Forrester, James Bayman, Renee Wozniak, Robert Lancaster, Betty Wilkinson, Teresa Smith, Donna Bowers, Jennifer Zartman-Romano and TJ Hemlinger. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Rethlake.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND VENDOR CLAIMS: The minutes of August 17 and the vendor claims for September 8 were approved as presented.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Dan Sigler reported that the CEDIT Agreement between Whitley County and Richard J. Bagan, Inc. is complete and ready for signatures. The Agreement states that the County will give financial assistance amounting to \$90,000 payable in three separate payments of \$30,000 each. Stipulations are associated with each phase before payments are made. The Loehr lawsuit is in the discovery stage and is still ongoing. The lawsuit filed by Christmar against the county treasurer has been dismissed. The Fuel Facility Agreement is scheduled to be signed on September 15 by the Whitley County Consolidated School Corporation. Chairman Rethlake would like Sigler to check on ordinances for wind powered devices and trails. Also, issues are coming up with county animals being dumped in the city limits and city officers are picking them up and taking them to the Humane Shelter. Sigler will check into this as there has been no signed agreement since 2007 with the Humane Shelter.

IN THE MATTER OF BRIDGE INSPECTION: Engineer Brandon Forrester was present to report on the findings of the Bridge Scoring Committee. Two consultants met the requirements outlined in the scoring procedure. USI, who has done previous bridge inspections for the county, was one of those consultants. With USI being familiar with the county, Forrester recommended choosing them to do the bridge inspections. Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to hire USI as the consultant for bridge inspections and to submit to INDOT. The motion carried 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF SOUTH WHITLEY/CLEVELAND TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BOARD: Renee Wozniak, Director, submitted the name of Sue Lopshire as a new board member to the South Whitley /Cleveland Township Public Library Board. Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to accept the recommendation and to appoint Sue Lopshire to fill that board member position until July 6, 2012. The motion carried 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMITTEE REPORTS: Commissioner Amber reported that an order for demolition on a home in Churubusco has been received. Commissioner Schrader reported that forklift training has been completed for Highway and Solid Waste employees. Chairman Rethlake reported that due to miscommunications in distributions of CEDIT monies to the Economic Development Corporation, there is money due back to Whitley County. In discussions of repayment of the monies, the Economic Development Corporation has offered to fund a new Comprehensive Plan. Dan Weigold is finishing up paperwork for the 2010 Census.

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT FOR GENERAL REASSESSMENT: A contract for general reassessment was executed on May 4, 2009 with Accurate Assessments, Inc. Since that time, the Indiana General Assembly has delayed the general reassessment by one year. The Amendment, as presented, states that both parties agree to the one year delay and that termination or rebidding of the contractual agreement is not required. Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to accept the Amendment. The motion passed 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR REPORT: Amy Crickmore reported that the Wellness Program will be starting in January 2010. A Wellness Committee of county employees has been formed to further expand upon the Parkview Wellness Program. The Website Committee has held two meetings with eGov Strategies on building the home page. September 10 the committee will hold a meeting with department heads to continue with building the website. Two requests for use of Courthouse Grounds were approved as presented. An extension of a previously approved short term disability request was approved for an additional 17 days.

IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT REQUESTS: Permission was granted to United Telephone to do utility work on county road 700 North.

Before adjournment of the meeting, Chairman Rethlake called for public comments. Donna Bowers questioned how long the Wheel Tax will be imposed and what were the uses for the money. Also, she inquired as to how roads were chosen for repair.

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