

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**OCTOBER 19, 2009**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 19, 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, Brooks Langeloh, Kathy Shively, Scott Jones, Dr. Diane Finch, Josh Pranger, Scott Wagner, Butch Sterner, Travis Doty, Brandon Forrester, Michael Clements, David Sewell and Chris Myers. Chairman Rethlake called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND VENDOR CLAIMS:** The minutes of October 5 and the vendor claims for October 19, 2009 were approved as submitted.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT:** Dan Sigler presented the signed Inter-Government Agreement between the Board of Commissioners and the Whitley County Consolidated School Corporation for the fuel facility. Sigler reported that the committee recently formed to negotiate with the Humane Society is making good progress. It would be Sigler's recommendation to county council that the contract be prorated for the rest of 2009 and a letter will be sent to end the contract. Sigler will bring his recommendation to county council on October 20, 2009.

**IN THE MATTER OF PHONE SYSTEM:** Notification has been received from Embarq that the county's current phone system equipment is approaching extinction and future capability of service for the system will be ending. Butch Sterner and Travis Doty of SDS Communications were present to discuss the possibility of their company replacing the equipment and contract with the county for maintenance. The company currently services the system through contacts from Embarq. An estimate was presented to install new IP based phone systems at the jail and Government Center and a new 16 port voicemail system will be installed at the jail to replace the existing 4 port system. All analog phones will remain in place and all 154 digital Nortel phones will be replaced with new Panasonic 24 button digital speaker phones with 3 line displays. All training and administration software is included in this estimate. No decisions were made and the proposal will be reviewed with county council.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Supervisor Michael Barton was present to discuss storage for salt. The department is using a temporary site on the premises and is looking into purchasing a more permanent structure. The lot is being reorganized for the placement of the snow plow blades allowing for better usage of space. Barton provided a map outlining highway drivers and their areas for winter. The front office entrance is being revamped by adding a second entrance door. Preparations are being made for 2010 highway supply bid requests.

**IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST TO VACATE:** Brooks Langeloh approached the Board of Commissioners with a request to vacate a portion of a driveway easement and other public ways or public places in Walker's Landing at Goose Lake, Township 32 North, Range 8 East. Langeloh submitted evidence that all adjoining land owners had been notified and all procedures had been followed to make the vacation request. Engineer Brandon Forrester commented that it appears correct to make the assumption that the request is allowable. After further discussion, Ordinance No. 2009-07 was presented vacating easements in the Plat of Walker's Landing at Goose Lake, Township 32 North, Range 8 East, Whitley County, Indiana. Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to approve Ordinance No. 2009-07. The motion carried 3/0. (See Ordinance No. 2009-07 on file in the auditor's office).

**IN THE MATTER OF 2010 CENSUS:** Michael Clements of the United States Census Bureau was present to discuss the formation of a Complete Count Committee for completing the 2010 Census. Clements requested that a proclamation be approved stating that the commissioners proclaim full support and participation in the success of Census 2010. The Proclamation would show that Whitley County understands its primary role in the partnership is to formulate a Complete Count Committee that should include, but is not limited to committees of Government, Education, Media, Faith-based, Community-based Organizations, Business, Recruiting and Special Housing. It is hoped that through these committees, the public is made aware of the importance of completing the forms that will be mailed in February and March. The forms are due back by April 1. If the forms are not returned, the census takers are required to make six attempts, door-to-door, to make contact.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:** David Sewell, Executive Director of the Columbia City/Whitley County Planning and Building Department, was present with a Request for Statement of Qualifications for professional services for preparation of a Comprehensive Plan. Sewell requested information from five firms with three responding. Commissioners opened the responses from LSL Planning, Ground Rules and Sturtz Public Management. The responses were turned over to Sewell for further inspection and approval. The Plan Commission will also review all. The Economic Development Corporation will be funding the project.

**IN THE MATTER OF EQUINE HOSPITAL:** Sanitarian Scott Wagner, Dr. Diane Finch and Josh Pranger were present to discuss the installation of a manhole for future sewer connection at the new Equine Hospital located in Coesse. The contractor, Pranger Group Inc., is ready to pour cement for the driveway and would like the manhole installed prior to completion of the driveway. Three proposals were received for excavation and installation for future sewer connection. The lowest proposal was from Wilcoxson and Son for \$14,500. After further discussion, Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to approve Wilcoxson and Son's proposal of \$14,500 to do the installation. The motion carried 3/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF JUNK AND TRASH VIOLATION:** Sanitarian Scott Wagner reported that the Linda Ford property on Anderson Road is not totally cleared of debris, but the cleanup is still in process. Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to allow a 30-day extension ending November 21, 2009. The motion passed 3/0. Wagner was given permission to contact Community Corrections to see if a work crew would be available to help with the cleanup.

**IN THE MATTER OF LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT:** A request was received from the South Whitley-Cleveland Township Library Board to appoint Kimberly Addison as a member to that Board. If appointed, Addison's term would expire July 3, 2012. Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to approve the appointment of Kimberly Addison to the South Whitley-Cleveland Township Library Board. The motion carried 3/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** Commissioner Schrader reported that several months ago, an energy study was performed by EMCOR for the jail and courthouse. EMCOR is inquiring as to what direction, if any, the project is heading. Schrader is working on a mileage survey vs. county vehicles (except sheriff's vehicles). Also, a Redevelopment Meeting is needed to discuss funding for the sewer project at the Equine Hospital. Chairman Rethlake reported that due to issues of school buses being passed while stopped for loading/unloading school children, the Transportation Directors of area schools will be invited to attend the Commissioner's Meeting on November 2, 2009.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR REPORT:** Amy Crickmore was present to request the date for paying Longevity Pay. The date of November 23, 2009 was approved for the distribution of the pay. Two requests for use of county facilities were approved as requested. A Halloween Fest will be held October 31 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm and the Community Christmas Celebration will be held December 4 and December 5 beginning at 6:00pm. Crickmore reported that the cost of a remote panic button for the WIC/Immunization Clinic would be \$178.00. Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to purchase two panic buttons totaling \$356.00. The motion carried 3/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF SALES DISCLOSURE PROGRAM:** County Assessor Angela Adams had been given permission to purchase a new Sales Disclosure Program called ScanMan. The State of Indiana is no longer hosting the Sales Disclosure information on their website, so it was left up to the Assessor's to find their own means of getting this information out to the public. ScanMan will archive Sales Disclosures and make them searchable by the public. There will be a link provided on the State's Website. The contract for ScanMan was presented for consideration and signing. After discussion, Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to accept and sign the contract. The motion carried 3/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF HEALTH INSURANCE PAYMENT:** Auditor Gerig presented a request to use monies from the Health Insurance Trust to make the November premium payment. The current balance in the trust is \$332,093. Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to allow the November health insurance premium to be paid with monies held in trust. The motion carried 3/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT REQUESTS:** A utility permit request from Verizon North, Inc. was approved for work north of Anderson Road on the west side of Sheldon Road in Smith Township. Work Order #9P008DB-17.

There being no further 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, Chairman

Attest:

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Linda J. Gerig, Auditor