

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 16, 2009

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday November 16, 2009 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. 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, Lori Shipman, Sanitarian Scott Wagner, Tom Payne, Brandon Forrester, Dave Sewell, Dan Weigold, Jim Becher, Michael Barton and Chris Meyers of the Post and Mail. Chairman Rethlake called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND VENDOR CLAIMS: The minutes of November 2 and the vendor claims for November 16 were approved as submitted.

IN THE MATTER OF COESSE SEWER PROJECT: In an attempt to submit for a grant for the sewer project in Coesse, the county and the City of Columbia City are partnering to obtain information concerning the residents of Coesse. Lori Shipman has been contracted to conduct an income survey of those residents. Shipman was present to have the Board review a letter and survey form that will be mailed to obtain the income information.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Dan Sigler presented the completed Dog Noise Ordinance for approval and signing. After discussion, Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to approve and sign Ordinance No. 2009-08. The motion carried 3/0. (See Ordinance No. 2009-08 on file in the Auditor's Office). Sigler reviewed the contract with Border Energy and recommended that it not be signed. Discussion was held with Border Energy's representative, Tom Payne, on problem areas that Sigler presented. Payne will take those suggestions back to his company to clear up wording, etc. No further action was taken. A fall by a resident on county property was discussed and Sigler will review the company's insurance policy concerning a issue of this type.

IN THE MATTER OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Dave Sewell was present to report that the three Requests for Proposals were reviewed by a committee formed of Plan Commission members and a recommendation was ready to be made. The committee recommends Ground Rules, Inc. of Indianapolis. After further discussion, Schrader moved, seconded by Amber to accept the recommendation of Ground Rules, Inc. and to allow Sewell to prepare a scope of work and to create a contract for review by the county attorney. The motion carried 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF IT CONTRACT: Jim Becher of Microage Networks was present to discuss a proposal for IT work with the county. Becher had presented a quote earlier and discussion was held on that quote. Amy Crickmore and Becher will work on needs and responsibilities. A formal contract will need to be created.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY HIGHWAY: Michael Barton was present to report that the highway department is milling roads and doing some birthing. A new employee has been hired to fill a vacancy. Barton attended a meeting on Federal Aid for the East County Line Road. Bids and quotes have been mailed for 2010 highway supplies. He will be preparing specs for a new truck in 2010.

IN THE MATTER OF INTERNSHIP: Brandon Forrester and Dan Weigold were present to request permission to take part in an Internship Program through Columbia City High School. The school has a student interested in Civil Engineering and GIS. There is no cost to the county to participate in this program and it will benefit the student in preparing for his future.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR REPORT: Amy Crickmore presented a request to use county facilities from the Whitley County Autumn Art Festival Committee for the Annual Art Festival on September 11, 2010. Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to approve the request. The motion carried 3/0. Two quotes have been received for replacing the phone system and Crickmore is expecting one more. Crickmore reported that the 2010 Census is asking for the county to make a monetary donation for the completion of this project.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMITTEE REPORTS: Don Amber reported that the committee formed to meet on the issue of the Humane Society will hold quarterly meetings starting January, 2010. A request has been made to the commissioners to make an appointment to the Humane Society's Nominating Committee. Chairman Rethlake reported that he has contacted Passages and reported that at this time, there is no work available for clients. The school bus safety project will be starting soon as a cell phone has been provided to Officer Brian Bills of the Indiana State Police by Whitley County. A letter will be sent to school corporations informing them of the phone number. The commissioners will be requesting a report from Bills at the end of the school year.

Rethlake reported that Comp Time is increasing again. Discussion continues on future funding of the Whitley County EMS. Employees will be celebrating Christmas with the employee carry-in on December 18, 2009.

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

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Tom Rethlake, Chairman

Michael D. Schrader, Vice Chairman

Don Amber, Member

Attest:

Linda J. Gerig, Auditor