

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 2, 2010**

The Whitley County Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman John Barrett, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, Thomas Western, William Overdeer and James Banks. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting was Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Michael Schrader, Lamonte Rhoades, David Koenig, Don Amber, Alan Tio, Michael Barton, John LeFever, Gene Heckman, Nancy Prickett, Jennifer Zartman-Romano and Post and Mail reporter Chris Meyers. Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of January 5, 2010 were approved as presented.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY TRUCK BID: Highway Supervisor Michael Barton was present with his recommendation of the bids received on January 19, 2010. Barton is recommending the bid from Selking and WA Jones totaling \$137,192 plus interest. There will be three payments of \$46,500 over the next three years. Barton explained several matters he is working on as far as grants, JOBS Bill and SEDS with Region III-A. Also, application will be made to LTAP for guardrail money. Nothing is final on any of these. A Contract for Engineering Services from Beam, Longest and Neff, consulting engineers, was approved. This contract is for as needed engineering services for Whitley County.

IN THE MATTER OF DRUG FREE INDIANA: Nancy Prickett was present to offer the 2010 Request for Funding for Whitley County Drug Free Indiana. Various agencies within the county who offer programs for drug eradication submit grant requests and these requests are reviewed by the Finance Committee members of Drug Free Indiana. A total of \$64,137.50 was requested from \$54,506.33 of available funds. The amount granted was \$55,122.18. Bayman moved, seconded by Overdeer, to approve the budget as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

IN THE MATTER OF NORTHEAST INDIANA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP: Alan Tio was present to discuss the 2010 contract between Whitley County and the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership. The contract allows economic development services to be conducted by the Partnership. The amount of the contract for 2010 is \$13,123.00. Tio explained that during discussions with the Economic Development Corporation's Board of Directors, a decision was made for that board to assume the contract and funding for 2011. The contract is not budgeted for 2010 and there is no additional money to support the funding. After further discussion, Overdeer moved, seconded by LaRue, for funding for the 2010 contract to come from CREDIT funds and the Economic Development Corporation will take over the funding in 2011. The motion carried 7/0.

IN THE MATTER OF LOAN REQUEST: In a matter tabled from January 5, 2010, David Koenig of Region III-A, Alan Tio and Lamonte Rhoades, were present to further discuss the loan request to support the expansion of SubdivisionINFO, a marketing services company connecting land developers and builders with new home buyers. Koenig explained that Region III-A would administer the grant process, but not make the decision on loans. John LeFever, a member of the EDC Investment Board, stated that Board has no authority to grant loans. Their responsibility is to look into the background, financial records, etc., and make a recommendation to County Council. The Board did support the venture, but adds that Keyman Life Insurance needs to be another requirement to cover the loan in case of the unexpected. Discussion was held on the entire loan process with Region III-A's administration. Bayman moved, seconded by LaRue, to put \$50,000 of CREDIT funds in Region III-A's Revolving Loan Fund. The motion carried 7/0. The issue of the actual loan to Rhoades was then discussed in length. A motion to approve the loan died for lack of a second. Overdeer then moved to allow \$25,000 to be loaned with a repayment of 75% before being eligible for the other \$25,000. The motion was seconded by Tom Western. Overdeer then amended his motion to \$25,000 with a 50% repayment before the next \$25,000. The amendment was seconded by Western. The vote on the amendment received three votes for and four votes against. Wheeler, Barrett, Banks and LaRue voted against the amendment. A call for the vote on the original motion resulted in three votes in favor and four votes against. Barrett, Bayman, LaRue and Banks voted against the original motion. Discussion will continue at the March 2, 2010 meeting so that members have more time to educate themselves on the process and to allow Region III-A to prepare a contract for the \$50,000.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORT: Michael Schrader reported the following:

- IT Contract has been finalized with Microage Networks, Inc.
- Region III-A is helping with application for Stimulus Money.

- 2010 Contract for legal services was approved with Dan Sigler.
- CEDIT Plan has been completed and adopted.
- Health Insurance Coverage for new employees, starting April 1, will be delayed 30days.
- Whitley County Website is now live.
- Training sessions for Supervisors is being planned.
- EMS Contract is still on-going.
- There are problems with the courthouse steps and the new coverings.
- The grant for window repairs in the courthouse has been delayed.
- Carpet needs replaced in the Superior Court offices.
- Internet set up for Maintenance Supervisor to diagnose problems with HVAC system.
- Future EMS funding still continues to be discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF PHASE II CERTIFICATION: Auditor Gerig explained that due to the State putting forth new requirements for certification of tax software programs, several computers in the auditor and treasurer offices do not meet the standards required. Gerig asked for the approval to purchase six new computers in order to meet the standards. Western moved, seconded by Barrett, to approve the computers to be funded by Cum Cap Funds.

IN THE MATTER OF BOARD APPOINTMENT: Bayman moved, seconded by Western, to reappoint Ted Linn to a one-year term on the Alcoholic Beverage Board. The motion passed 6/1 with Banks casting the No vote.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Kim Wheeler, Chairman

John Barrett, Vice Chairman

James Bayman

Glen LaRue

Thomas E. Western

William Overdeer

James E. Banks

Attest:

Linda J. Gerig, Auditor