

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MARCH 2, 2010**

The Whitley County Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. In attendance were Chairman Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman John Barrett, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, William Overdeer and James E. Banks. Tom Western was absent. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Jackie Hake, 911 Director Scott Jones, County Assessor Angie Adams, Sheriff Mark Hodges, Lamonte Rhoades, Michael Schrader, Alan Tio, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, Gene Heckman, Chuck Jones and Post & 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 February 2, 2010 were approved as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF FUEL EXPENSE:** Sheriff Mark Hodges was present to discuss the funding of fuel expenses for the detective. Hodges and Prosecutor Matthew Rentschler have worked out that, if possible, the Sheriff will assume the costs of fuel for the detective and the Prosecutor will assume the costs for future repairs to in-car camera systems in sheriff vehicles. After further discussion, Overdeer moved, seconded by Banks, to approve this arrangement. The motion passed 6/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF ASSESSING MILEAGE:** Assessor Angie Adams was present to seek guidance on reimbursement for assessing mileage. The county policy currently states that mileage reimbursements be substantiated with some means of mileage calculations from Goggle, etc. Adams stated that it would be difficult for her to map every location she travels to when doing her assessing. This same situation would also apply to the Planning Director and Maintenance Supervisor. After discussion, Council waved the mapping requirement for these three departments on short trips. It was also discussed about reimbursing all mileage when meals are not provided with conferences/training. Adams stated that her conferences/training sessions do not include meals. Council agreed to allow her to turn in all mileage incurred for conference/training.

**IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY REPORT:** Director Michael Barton was present to update the Board on Jobs Bill Project Proposals by Beam, Longest and Neff, Consultants, for road projects. Barton is also preparing the 2010 Road Plan and is planning a public meeting in April to discuss it. Two new snow plows have been purchased along with the new truck being ordered. Delivery should be within 60-90 days. Barton was given approval to attend Purdue Road School and to drive his personal vehicle.

**IN THE MATTER OF CEDIT FUNDING:** Jackie Hake of the Senior Center was present to provide yearly stats on the Transit Program her organization provides. Hake also requested that the \$20,000 in the CEDIT Plan allotted for that Program be released. Overdeer moved, seconded by Barrett, to release the funds. The motion passed 6/0. Hake stated that the Senior Center was granted \$146,400 in Stimulus money and is purchasing two new buses, computers and software.

**IN THE MATTER OF 911 FUNDS:** Director Scott Jones reported on a meeting he recently attended outlining legislation that was in place, but did not pass. Jones feels the legislation will come back and could cause revenues losses for the county. The main concern is eliminating the Indiana Wireless 911 Board and creating a board to oversee all 911 fees. Revenue is being lost due to elimination of land lines. If a state board is created, Jones feels that the county will loose control of 911 dollars.

**IN THE MATTER OF REVOLVING LOAN PROCESS:** Alan Tio of the Economic Development Commission was present to discuss the contract between Region III-A and Whitley County for \$50,000 of CEDIT funds. Council members would like the contract to be on a year-to-year basis leaving open the opportunity to withdraw the funds if Council desires. Overdeer moved, seconded by LaRue, to allow a year-to-year contract be drafted with Region III-A. The motion passed 6/0. The topic of the loan to LaMonte Rhoades and SubdivisionINFO through the Region III-A revolving loan program was discussed. This topic has been tabled twice since being presented in January. After comments from Tio and Rhoades, Overdeer moved to allow \$25,000 be loaned initially and after a six month review, allow the other \$25,000. The motion was seconded by LaRue and passed with a 5/1 vote. James E. Banks cast the No vote.

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

- The contract with Serv-All Recycling will not be cancelled at this time, but will not be renewed in 2011.

- Two employees of the Economic Development Commission have requested to be included on the county's insurance plan. The county will be reimbursed by those employees. Commissioners are favorable with this event. Banks moved, seconded by Bayman, to allow two Economic Development Commission employees to be added to the county's insurance plan. The motion carried 6/0.
- A letter of acceptance is being drafted by the County Attorney to the Department of Natural Resources for the Camp Samaritan and Fish Hatchery properties on Round Lake.
- The OCRA Grant for Greatbatch Medical has been approved and \$195,000 has been awarded.
- Courthouse windows have been ordered.
- The new phone system will be installed over Easter weekend.
- Discussion is being held with cell phone vendors due to Centennial Wireless being bought by AT&T.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ROOM COMPUTER:** Auditor Gerig had been asked to explore the possibility of having computer being installed in the Commissioner Room. After consulting with IT Consultant Jim Becher, a computer was put in place and is waiting for council approval before being activated. The computer is networked with the large screens and would be available for use in presentations and multiple other uses. Bayman moved, seconded by Barrett, to approve the computer and allow the funding to come from cum cap funds. The motion passed 6/0.

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

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Kim Wheeler, Chairman

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John Barrett, Vice Chairman

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James Bayman

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Glen LaRue

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Thomas E. Western

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William Overdeer

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James E. Banks

Attest:

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Linda J. Gerig, Auditor