

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL
October 5, 2010

The Whitley County Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 5, 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, Thomas E. Western, William N. Overdeer and James E. Banks. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, David Koenig, Alan Tio, Michael Schrader, County Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Jeff Mize, David Reickhart, Matt Boyd, Cheryl McDevitt, Max Zimmerman, Jim Becher, Highway Director Michael Barton and Post and Mail reporter Chris Myers. Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of September 8, 2010 were approved as presented.

Chairman Wheeler recessed the meeting in order to hold a public hearing as advertised according to the Indiana Open Door Law.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING: The Whitley County Council held a public hearing on the matter of a resolution under consideration to waive the requirements concerning the construction of a 730,000 bushel grain bin, scales and office facilities for which tax abatement is being requested. The applicant for tax abatement is AgPlus, L.P. David Koenig of Region III-A and representatives of AgPlus, LP were present to discuss the request for tax abatement. In order to meet a fall harvest deadline, AgPlus, LP began construction of a 730,000 bushel grain bin, scales and office facilities prior to approaching county council for tax abatement. To this regard, the issue of non-compliance needed to be addressed. There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Chairman Wheeler reconvened the council meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST FOR AgPLUS: Resolution No. 2010-23, A Resolution Granting A Waiver For Non-Compliance With The Provision Set Forth By Indiana Code 6-1.1-12.1 Et Seq. Within Whitley County, was introduced. If approved by council, the formal request for tax abatement could take place. After discussion, Overdeer moved, seconded by Western, to approve and sign Resolution No. 2010-13. The motion carried 7/0. The Statement of Benefits was then presented along with a resolution requesting ten-year tax abatement for AgPlus, LP. The additional grain bin is needed to increase capacity and inventory storage and expanded agronomy department. The cost of the new grain bin, scales and office facilities is estimated at \$1,700,000. It is stated that two additional employees will be added. After further discussion, Resolution No. 2010-24 was introduced to approve ten-year tax abatement for real property improvements. Bayman moved, seconded by Western, to approve Resolution No. 2010-24 and grant 10-year tax abatement to AgPlus, LP. The motion carried 7/0.

IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST FOR METAL TRADERS, INC: A ten-year tax abatement request was presented for Metal Traders, Inc. (Triad Metals International). The request is for a 150,000 square foot facility to handle and process steel. The company is new to Whitley County and will support the SDI Steel Mill. The estimated cost of the facility is \$6,500,000 with an estimated 17 employees. The projected completion date is June 1, 2011. It is estimated that \$3,050,000 of steel handling and processing equipment will be installed. The estimated completion date of installation is February 28, 2012. After further discussion, Resolution No. 2010-25 was introduced for approval of ten-year tax abatement for both real estate and personal property improvements. Overdeer moved, seconded by Barrett, to approve Resolution No. 2010-25 and grant the requested ten-year tax abatement. The motion carried 7/0.

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST TO TRANSFER FUNDS: Highway Director Michael Barton was present with the follow request to transfer funds.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION

Whereas, certain emergencies have developed since the adoption of the existing annual budget, so that it is necessary to transfer funds that were appropriated to the annual budget; now, therefore to meet such emergencies: Section 1. Be it resolved by the County Council of Whitley County, Indiana, that for the expenses of said Whitley County, sums of money are hereby transferred as follows:

<u>Transfer From</u>	<u>Transfer To</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Equipment	Fuel Station	\$40,000	-7-	-0-	-0-
Drainage	Culverts	6,000	-7-	-0-	-0-
Motion: Banks		Second: Bayman			

This resolution adopted on this 5th day of October, 2010.

Whitley County Council

Kim Wheeler – signed

John Barrett – signed

James Bayman – signed

Glen LaRue – signed

Thomas E. Western – signed

William N. Overdeer – signed

James E. Banks – signed

Attest: Linda J. Gerig – signed

IN THE MATTER OF STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION: Circuit Court Clerk Cindy Doolittle was present to inform council that there may be a need for an additional \$10,314 in the County Clerk’s budget for 2011. The State has not yet made their final decision, but Doolittle wanted council to be aware of the situation.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORT: Michael Schrader reported that the commissioners asked Jim Becher of Microage Networks, Inc. to compile a 6-year plan for computer replacement. Community Corrections is receiving a new van for the work crew. Space has been found in the Annex for the Literacy Council. Office space has been found for the Veteran’s Service Office. The office space is located in the County Assessor’s office. A 3-yr contract has been signed with Maximus for assisting in recovering administrative costs of grant programs. The energy project is progressing in the jail with the new lighting. The replacement of boilers is in the process also.

IN THE MATTER OF LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT: A request was received from the South Whitley Cleveland Township Public Library to reappointing Monte Wilkinson to their board. This is a four-year term expiring July 3, 2014. Bayman moved, seconded by LaRue, to approve the reappointment. The motion carried 7/0.

IN THE MATTER OF IT REQUESTS: Jim Becher of Microage Networks was present with the fourth quarter IT request. The request totals \$4,587 and includes replacement of five computers and adding new required software. Overdeer moved, seconded by Barrett, to allow the request to be funded from Cum Cap Funds. The motion carried 7/0. Becher also presented a quote for replacement of computers and servers over the next six years. This matter will be discussed at another time.

IN THE MATTER OF 2011 PROPOSED BUDGET: As advertised, per the Indiana Open Door law, the council held the first reading of the proposed 2011 budget. Chairman Wheeler called for public comment on the budget and hearing none, Bayman moved, seconded by Overdeer, to suspend with the reading of the budget. The motion carried 7/0. The 2011 Salary Ordinance was introduced by Auditor Gerig. Bayman moved, seconded by Banks, to approve. The motion carried 7/0. The second reading and final adoption of the 2011 proposed budget will be October 19, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. as previously advertised.

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

Attest:

Linda J. Gerig, Auditor

Thomas E. Western

William N. Overdeer

James E. Banks