

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 5, 2009**

The Whitley County Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Thomas Western, Vice Chairman Kim Wheeler, James Bayman, John Barrett, James E. Banks and William Overdeer. Glen LaRue was absent. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting was Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Tom Rethlake, Michael Schrader, Don Amber, Janet Scank, Betty Mishler, Ward Krouse, Dave Koenig, Rob Koontz, Ron Conley, Diane Finch, David Koenig, Lori Shipman, Jody Morrissey, Pat Stach, Karen Friend-Bowman, Sheriff Mark Hodges, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, Richard Bagan, Scott Darley, Lydia McDevitt and Post and Mail reporter TJ Hemlinger. Chairman Western called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of April 7, 2009 were approved as presented.

IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST: The request for tax abatement came from Conley, Finch and Koontz Investments, LLC. The project is a state-of-the-art equine hospital which will merge three separate equine veterinary practices and have a regional market, including Michigan and Ohio. Construction of a 13,000 square foot facility is planned to start May 15, 2009 and be completed by November, 2009. The estimated value of the facility is \$1,700,000. The term of the abatement request is ten-years. There are currently 8 employees with expectations of adding 7 more. This facility will be unique to Whitley County because there is no other like it in the county. Surgical, advanced medical services and full pharmacy services will be provided for horses. After further discussion, Resolution Number 2009-04 was presented for consideration. Overdeer moved to approve the abatement for a period of ten years. The motion was seconded by Banks and passed with a 6/0 vote. The abatement request will be presented to county council. (See Resolution Number 2009-04 on file in the auditor's office). A tax abatement amendment was presented for C & A Tool Engineering, Inc. On April 8, 2008, ten-year tax abatement was granted for \$6,500,000 by Resolution Number 2008-05, but actual spending has surpassed that amount. The request to amend the abatement to \$9,300,000 is being presented with Resolution Number 2009-05. After further discussion, Overdeer moved, seconded by Barrett, to approve the amended amount of \$9,300,000. The vote was 6/0. (See Resolution Number 2009-05 on file in the auditor's office).

IN THE MATTER OF LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT: Janet Scank of the Peabody Public Library presented a request to reappoint Jonathan Myers to a four-year term on the library board. Bayman moved, seconded by Banks, to reappoint Myers to the four-term effective May 5, 2009. The motion passed 6/0.

IN THE MATTER OF INCREASED HOURS FOR JAIL NURSE: Sheriff Mark Hodges returned with further documentation regarding his request to increase the hours for the jail nurse provided through Health Professionals, Ltd. The issue was originally discussed on April 20, 2009 with the commissioners. The current contract covers twenty-five hours per week and that would be increased by one hour per day for a total of thirty hours per week. The cost of the increased hours would be \$7100/year. Hodges states the amount budgeted for 2009 will cover the increased cost. The contract will be renewable in August and only increase 2% instead of the 3% as stated in the contract. Bayman moved, seconded by Barrett, to allow the increase in hours worked and increased spending of \$7100. The motion passed 6/0.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR: Highway Supervisor Michael Barton introduced himself to council members and presented his findings on the department to date and future plans for road repairs.

IN THE MATTER OF CEDIT REQUEST: Scott Darley and Richard Bagan were present to make a request for \$150,000 in CEDIT funds to be used by Bagan, Inc. for finishing building improvements and developing calibration process automation software. Bagan gave a presentation on his company's processes and plans for expanding his business services. Council postponed their decision until June 2, 2009.

IN THE MATTER OF HUMANE SHELTER FUNDING: Lori Shipman and other representatives of the Humane Shelter were present to explain the changes that have taken place in that organization. A new director, Karen Friend-Bowman, has been hired. Shipman outlined organizational audit findings, new budget management procedures and fundraising efforts that will be put into place. After discussion and questions from council, Shipman requested that the \$10,000 budgeted for 2009 be released. Overdeer made a motion to release the money, but the motion died due to the lack of a second.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Tom Rethlake reported on issues discussed on May 4, 2009 with the commissioners.

- Dr. Lisa Hatcher and Cathy Broxon-Ball discussed the H1N1 (Swine Flu) Virus and the plans that are in place to counteract a pandemic.
- Highway Supervisor Michael Barton gave an update on his department.
- New employee hand books will be distributed to department heads on May 18, 2009.
- County Attorney Dan Sigler is working with the Whitley County Consolidated School Corporation's attorney on a new Fuel Facility Agreement.
- Commissioners also heard Richard Bagan's request for CEDIT Funds.

IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Commissioner Tom Rethlake was present with the following request.

SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Be it ordained by the Whitley Council of Whitley, Indiana for the expenses of the County Government and it's institutions for the pay period ending December 31, 2009 that the following sums of money are hereby amended and ordered set apart out of several funds herein named, and for the purposes herein specified to the laws governing the same. The salary ordinance for this County office is as follows:

<u>Fund or Department</u>	<u>Bi-Weekly Amt</u>	<u>Annual Amt</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Highway Supervisor	\$2,038.46	\$53,000.00	-6-	-0-	-0-

Motion: Banks Second: Wheeler

This ordinance adopted on the 5th day of May, 2009.

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Thomas Western – signed

James E Banks – signed

Kim Wheeler – signed

William Overdeer – signed

James Bayman – signed

Attest: Linda J. Gerig, Auditor

IN THE MATTER OF CAGIT RESOLUTION: Auditor Gerig presented Resolution No. 2009-06 denying CAGIT distributions to the Solid Waste District. This decision must be made by each July 1. The Resolution will remain in effect until the Whitley County Council revokes or rescinds by resolution. Overdeer moved, seconded by Bayman, to approve Resolution No. 2009-06 denying CAGIT distributions to the Solid Waste District. The motion passed 6/0. (See Resolution No. 2009-06 on file in the auditor's office).

IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENTS: The rest of the meeting involved reviewing Compliance With Statement of Benefits (CF-1) for existing tax abatements. A letter will be sent to Coupled Products, LLC regarding potential non-compliance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Thomas Western, Chairman

William Overdeer

Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman

James E. Banks

James Bayman

Absent

Glen LaRue

Attest: _____
Linda J. Gerig, Auditor

John Barrett

