

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL
AUGUST 4, 2009

The Whitley County Council met August 4, 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 Banks, Glen LaRue, John Barrett, William Overdeer and James Banks. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Tom Rethlake, Dan Weigold, Dave Koenig, Michael Schrader, Brandon Forrester, Alan Tio, Richard Bagan, Duane Ginder, County Recorder Rosemary Brown, Sheriff Mark Hodges, County Clerk Cindy Greer, Ted Hurley, Adam Hurley, Charles Cadwell, Bill Kautz, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, Rob Marr, Ward Krause and TJ Hemlinger. Chairman Western called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

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

IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENT HEARINGS: Four companies were scheduled for hearings due to non-compliance.

- Dynamic Composites was represented by Charles Cadwell and Bill Kautz. The company currently has 38 employees with much of that work force coming from other Steel Dynamic Plants. The company has a “no lay-off” policy therefore the jobs are being offered to other employees. The company is working three shifts, but only running at a 30% production level. After further discussion, LaRue moved, seconded by Barrett, to approve the abatement request for pay 2010 tax year. The motion carried with James Bayman abstaining.
- Alfe Heat Treating will forego the last year of their abatement because they will not meet the employment numbers they had committed to.
- Shively Warehouse/Farmers Grain & Feed Co., Inc. will be given another hearing on September 9, 2009.
- AutoLiv was represented by Alan Tio of the Economic Development Corporation. Tio explained that the existing abatement could be a selling point with a prospective buyer and would recommend leaving it in place for one more year. Overdeer moved, seconded by Wheeler, to leave the abatements in place for one more year. The motion failed with a vote of 2/5. Overdeer and Wheeler were the two yea votes. The original abatement was granted for 10-years. When the building is sold, the new owner can make a request to continue for the number of years that are left at that time.

IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST: David Koenig from Region III-A, Rob Marr and Ward Krause of C & A Tool were present to request tax abatement for new manufacturing equipment in the amount of \$2,600,000. The equipment is to be installed at 4100 North Hwy 33, Churubusco. The machinery will add an additional six jobs. The request is for a period of ten years. After further discussion of the matter, Resolution No. 2009-08 was introduced approving the deduction of assessed valuation for the installation of new manufacturing equipment for ten years. Barrett moved, seconded by Banks, to approve Resolution No. 2009.08 and grant C & A Tool tax abatement for a period of ten years. The motion passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF REQUESTS TO TRANSFER FUNDS: The following requests were considered.

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>AMT</u>	<u>TRANSFER TO</u>	<u>AMT</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Highway	\$150,000	Highway	\$150,000	-7-	-0-	-0-
New Equipment		Bituminous				
		Motion: Bayman	Second: Overdeer			
County General Museum	\$400	Museum	\$400	-7-	-0-	-0-
Printing/Advertising		Preservation				
		Motion: Overdeer	Second: LaRue			
County General	\$259.40	County General	\$259.40	-7-	-0-	-0-
Commissioners Postage		Commissioners Employee Performance				
		Motion: Bayman	Second: Banks			

Whitley County Council

Thomas Western – signed

Kim Wheeler – signed

James Bayman – signed

Glen LaRue – signed

John Barrett – signed

William Overdeer – signed

James E. Banks – signed

Attest: Linda J. Gerig, Auditor - signed

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DIRECTOR REPORT: Michael Barton was present to update the council members on road repairs taking place in the county. There have been sixty-two miles completed with twenty-eight to finish. Striping will start soon. Barton made a request for a second foreman and that the current foreman position is changed to a salaried position. Discussion was held pertaining to mowing the old landfill site. The highway department will now be responsible for the mowing.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY WEBSITE: A committee of Dan Weigold, Brandon Forrester, Amy Crickmore, Linda Gerig, David Sewell, Douglas Jones and Jennifer Baxter was formed to investigate the possibility of creating a website for Whitley County Government. The committee interviewed several different providers and held long discussions with them. After much deliberation, Egov Strategies was selected by the committee. This vendor hosts several county websites and the committee feels will serve the needs of Whitley County. The cost of the construction of the website is \$24,000. Maintenance costs for the second year are being quoted at \$5090. The committee held several sessions discussing possible means of funding. CEDIT funds would be available and the committee feels the website meets the criteria for economic development. Commissioner Rethlake spoke in support for the use of CEDIT funds. After further discussion, Banks moved to accept the request for CEDIT funds. The motion passed 7/0. When the contract is signed a commitment of \$7200 will be due with the remaining due upon completion. Meetings will be held with department heads regarding the content of pages on the website.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF REQUEST FOR NEW RADIOS: Sheriff Mark Hodges, Ted Hurley and Adam Hurley of J&K Communications was present to discuss the mandated changes that need to be made by January 1, 2013 for private land mobile radio systems. The sheriff's department is using a VHF radio system that works on wide band width. On January 2, 2011, wideband radios will no longer be available. On January 2, 2013, all VHF radios must be narrowband. Sheriff Hodges would like to start integrating the radio equipment now and requested to purchase 15 portable radios that are analog/digital and narrowband compliant. Hodges received quotes from two vendors and prefers J&K Communications. The cost of the radios would be \$11,952.90. Hodges explained he can provide funding in the amount of \$9,952.90. A request for \$3,000 to be funded by cum cap funds was made by Hodges. After further discussion, Banks moved, seconded by Barrett, to appropriate \$3,000 from cum cap funds for the purchase of 15 new portable radios. The motion passed 6/1. Bayman cast the No vote.

IN THE MATTER OF CEDIT FUNDS REQUEST: Alan Tio, President of the Whitley County Economic Development Corporation and Richard Bagan were present to discuss a request made earlier in the year for \$150,000 in CEDIT funds for finishing building improvements and developing calibration process automation software. The request was recommended to county council by county commissioners, but turned down by county council. Since that request, a five-member Investment Board has been created to review requests for CEDIT funding and provide recommendations on funding to county commissioners. Following a presentation by Bagan and other staff, the Investment Board is recommending a three-phase CEDIT incentive package. Phase One is \$30,000 to be awarded toward training of incumbent and net new fulltime employees at the Whitley County facility. Phase Two is \$30,000 to be awarded once the company hires eight new fulltime employees. Phase Three is \$30,000 to be awarded once the company hires six additional new fulltime employees. The Investment Board recommends that the company be required to provide documentation of actual fulltime employment before receiving the second and third CEDIT awards. Bagan will be required to submit documentation of how the training dollars are utilized and the Board recommends that commissioners establish a deadline of December 31, 2010 to access the CEDIT dollars and to complete all reporting requirements for this project. The Investment Board also recommends that a signed contract be used to formalize this agreement. Overdeer moved, seconded by Wheeler, to grant the total request based on the contract. Overdeer then moved to amend his motion by stating to accept the contract on the phase based plan as stated. Wheeler seconded the motion and the vote was 6/1. Banks cast the No vote. The Investment Board will inform County Council when the contract is completed and signed.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORT: Tom Rethlake was present to give a report on matters discussed at the August 3 Commissioner's meeting.

- Septic issues have been discovered in Coesse with the construction of the new Equine hospital. The matter is being investigated.
- September 8 Commissioner's meeting will be held at the South Whitley Library.
- October 5 Commissioner's meeting will be held at the Churubusco Town Hall.
- EMS and Region III-A will be working on an income survey for the purpose of applying for a grant from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) for the construction of a new EMS building. The cost for study is \$3400 and CEDIT funds will be used.
- The 2010 contract with Maximus was signed for cost recovery of administrative funds due to grant programs in place in Whitley County.
- The health insurance renewal has been signed. The County will continue with AGA for health insurance and Monumental for life insurance. The monthly premium for 2010 will be \$125,353.
- Jon Kissinger was appointed to the Columbia City Joint Planning Commission.
- Rethlake state the possible need for the creations of a golf cart ordinance.
- A Wellness Program was present by Parkview Group.
- The 2010 EMS budget was reviewed.

IN THE MATTER OF 2010 BUDGET WORKSHOP: Council members reviewed local taxing unit's proposed budgets. A non-binding recommendation will be issued to each unit as they are submitted and reviewed. Banks moved, seconded by Bayman, to make the recommendation that each budget be kept at the 3.8% growth quotient allowed by the State for 2010. The motion passed with a 6/1 vote. In discussion for the county's 2010 proposed budget, a motion made by Banks to have all departments cut their budgets by 20% was seconded by Bayman. Banks amended his motion to state that new numbers would be calculated and reviewed. Bayman seconded the amended motion and the vote was 7/0. Auditor Gerig was instructed to set salary requests at the 2009 current levels, move Sick Pay amounts to the Rainy Day Fund and to eliminate Performance Pay. In further discussion, Banks moved to eliminate health insurance for county council members. The motion was seconded by LaRue, but was defeated 3/4. Wheeler, LaRue and Banks cast the yea votes. John Barrett questioned if a supplement for employees over the age of 65 could be investigated by the County Commissioners.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Thomas Western, Chairman

Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman

James Bayman

Glen LaRue

John Barrett

William Overdeer

James E. Banks

Attest:

Linda J. Gerig, Auditor

