

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**

The Whitley County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 due to the Labor Day Holiday on Monday September 7, 2009. The meeting was held in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Council members in attendance were Chairman Thomas Western, Vice Chairman Kim Wheeler, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, John Barrett, William Overdeer and James E. Banks. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Tom Rethlake, Mike Schrader, Prosecutor Matthew Rentschler, Alan Tio, Debora Story, Tom Sordelet, David Koenig, TJ Hemlinger, Galen Wilkinson, Betty Wilkinson, Janet Scank, Bob Brittain, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Nadean Lamle, Don Langeloh, Dennis Shively, Gene Heckman, Jennifer Zartman-Romano, Dave Rupley, Sandy Rumsyre, Lucy Draper, Ed Banks, Doug Sheetz, Kelley Sheiss, Bill Leeuw, Karen Friend-Bowman, Pat Stach, Meredith Hoffman, Cindy Barnett, David Addison, Bill Webber, Tony Reust, Richard Bagan and John LeFever. Chairman Western called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** The minutes of August 4, August 6 and August 7, 2009 were approved as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST:** David Koenig of Region III-A and representatives of Precimed, Inc. dba Greatbatch Medical were present to request tax abatement for new manufacturing equipment. The Pennsylvania plant is closing and the Columbia City plant will be updating with an estimated \$1,700,000 of new equipment. The request is for (2) Star SV32 Lathes, (1) Mazak Integrex 200 IV S and (1) Eldorado M30 Twin Spindle Gun Drill machine. The new equipment will provide manufacturing capabilities that Greatbatch Medical Orthopedics does not possess. The equipment will be critical in reducing lead times and meeting customer's needs for rapid turnaround on design & development and provide additional capacity for production and prototype activities. There are no new employees projected at this time, but with the granting of previous abatements, employment numbers have exceeded those projections. This will be the first purchase of new equipment in the last three years. The expected project completion date is February 28, 2010. After further discussion, Overdeer moved, seconded by Wheeler, to approve Resolution Number 2009-10 granting Precimed, Inc. ten-year abatement on \$1,700,000 of new manufacturing equipment. The motion carried 7/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENT NON-COMPLIANCE:** Dennis Shively of Farmer's Grain/Shively Warehouse, was present to discuss non-compliance of tax abatement. Shively's project was scheduled to be complete by 2007 and to date is not complete. Shively states that the effects of Ethanol, the company's focus has changed. Also, damage to a grain bin has slowed the completion of the project. Shively was informed that the project should be completed by December 31, 2009. The abatement will stop at that time and he will need to file an amendment to the original abatement.

**IN THE MATTER OF BUDGET REVIEWS:** Janet Scank of the Peabody Public Library was present with the library's 2010 proposed budget. Scank explained the budget to council members.

**IN THE MATTER OF SOUTH WHITLEY/CLEVELAND TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BOARD:** Renee Wozniak, Director, submitted the name of Tim Kahn for reappointment to the South Whitley /Cleveland Township Public Library Board. Bayman moved, seconded by Barrett, to accept the recommendation for Tim Kahn's reappointment. The motion carried 7/0. The term will end July 3, 2013.

**IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT:** The following amendments to the 2009 Salary Ordinance were submitted for approval.

**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/Department</u>	<u>Bi-Weekly</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
County General	\$1515.07	\$39,392.00	-7-	-0-	-0-
Sheriff Deputy	Motion: Wheeler		Second: Banks		
County General	\$1628.68	\$42,346.00	-7-	-0-	-0-
Sheriff Sergeant	Motion: Wheeler		Second: Banks		

This Ordinance adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009.

Whitley County Council  
Thomas Western – signed  
Kim Wheeler – signed  
James Bayman – signed  
John Barrett – signed

John Barrett - signed  
William Overdeer – signed  
James E. Banks – signed  
Attest: Linda J. Gerig, Auditor – signed

**IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS:** The following requests were made for additional appropriations.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE**

Whereas, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget; now, therefore: Sec. 1. Be it ordained (resolved) by the Whitley County Council of Whitley County, Indiana that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to laws governing the same:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amt. Requested</u>	<u>Amt. Approved</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Highway	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	-7-	-0-	-0-
	Motion: Overdeer	Second: Wheeler			
County Identification	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	-7-	-0-	-0-
Security Protection	Motion: Bayman	Second: Barrett			

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Whitley County Council  
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Kim Wheeler – signed  
James Bayman – signed  
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John Barrett - signed  
William Overdeer – signed  
James E. Banks – signed  
Attest: Linda J. Gerig, Auditor – signed

**IN THE MATTER OF HUMANE SHELTER FUNDING:** Karen Friend-Bowman and representatives of the Humane Society of Whitley County, Inc., were present to discuss funding. Bowman stated that since a freeze has been put on accepting animals from county residents, the number of animals coming in from the City is increasing. Bowman’s assumption is that county animals are being dumped in City limits. Tom Rethlake stated that he and County Attorney Dan Sigler have met with the Chief of Police on this matter and have been made aware of the situation. Discussion was held as to reorganization and fund raising efforts on the part of the Society to become self-supporting. Thorncreek Township Trustee Gene Heckman stated there are no means left for township assistance with animals since the dog tax was discontinued. After further discussion, Overdeer moved, seconded by LaRue, to pay the \$10,000 budgeted for 2009 and that notification is sent to the Society by December 31, 2009 that the County will no longer honor any contract for funding. (The most recent contract date is October 11, 2006). The motion failed. Overdeer and LaRue cast the only Aye votes.

**IN THE MATTER OF PROSECUTOR OFFICE:** Prosecutor Matthew Rentschler was present to get clarification on the hiring freeze implemented in August by County Council. Rentschler is seeking to fill a vacancy in the Child Support Office. This office is two-thirds funded with federal funds through the Title IV-D program and only one-third with county general funds. Rentschler feels this office and the clients that it serves would suffer greatly if the position remains vacant. After further discussion, Barrett moved, seconded by Banks, to allow Rentschler to fill the vacant position and that future, in-house changes come before council. The motion carried 7/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF EXTENSION OFFICE:** Cindy Barnett and several representatives of the Extension Office and Extension Board were present to discuss the 2010 budget. Due to the retirement of Val Slack, discussions on salaries and replacement have come about. Barnett did present cuts to the 2010 proposed budget for the Extension Office. Council members are proposing to cut the amount of money paid to Purdue University for professional services.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORT:** Tom Rethlake reported on the following issues discussed by county commissioners on September 8, 2009.

- The September 8, 2009 meeting was held at the library in South Whitley with seven members of the public attending. The October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the commissioners will be held in Churubusco at their Town Hall.
- The county attorney has been asked to look in to ordinances for wind power devices and establishment of trails.
- Whitley County has received no stimulus dollars to this point. Paperwork has been received regarding stimulus dollars for energy savings money.

- Courthouse projects – Maintenance Supervisor Dennis Fenker has received estimates for repairs to the dome. The lowest estimate was \$7540. William Overdeer moved, seconded by Glen LaRue, to move ahead with the dome repair and allow the expenditure of \$7540 of Cum Cap funds. The motion carried 7/0. Bids have been sought for replacement of windows and updating stairways in the courthouse. These projects are being put on hold for now.
- The Economic Development Corporation has offered to fund an updated Comprehensive Plan in lieu of repaying over distributions of CEDIT monies.
- The 2010 Holiday Schedule is being reviewed.
- USI was chose to do the county’s bridge inspections.
- Fork lift training has been completed with Highway and Solid Waste employees. Mark Sturtevant trained 13 people who are now OSHA certified. The certification is good for 3 three years at which time recertification will take place.
- The Wellness Program with Parkview will start in January of 2010. A Wellness Committee has been formed to further expand on programs for employee wellness.
- The website is progressing. A department head meeting is schedule for September 10, 2009.

**IN THE MATTER OF CEDIT AGREEMENT:** The CEDIT Agreement between Whitley County and Richard J. Bagan, Inc. is complete and ready for signatures. The Agreement states that the County will give financial assistance amounting to \$90,000 payable in three separate payments of \$30,000 each. Stipulations are associated with each phase before payments are made. Bayman moved, seconded by LaRue, to allow the chairman to sign on behalf of the entire council. The motion passed unanimously.

In a call for public comment, Mr. Ed Banks voiced his displeasure with council members being allowed to receive the county health insurance benefits.

The council entered into the workshop on the 2010 county budget.

Discussion was held on funding mechanisms for Emergency Medical Service (EMS). Discussion is being held with State Representatives Dan Leonard and Matt Bell regarding user fees, etc. to help elevate revenue losses.

James Bayman moved, seconded by Glen LaRue, to cut the funding to Purdue Extension for Professional Services to \$60,000 from the \$96,900 that was requested. Auditor Gerig will notify Purdue University of this along with contacting a representative of Purdue to meet with county council members.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Thomas Western, Chairman

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John Barrett

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Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman

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William Overdeer

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James Bayman

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James Banks

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Glen LaRue

Attest:

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Linda J. Gerig, Auditor