

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 1, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, June 1, 2015 at 1:30 pm in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Tom Rethlake, Vice Chairman Don Amber, and George Schrupf. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Mark Parker from the Post and Mail, Viv Sade from Churubusco News, Mark Jesse from GAI Consultants, Dani Tippman from the Museum, John Woodmansee and Cindy Barnett from the Extension office, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Mark Sturtevant from the Maintenance department, GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold, Highway Director Michael Barton, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, and Joan Null from WCCS.

Chairman Rethlake called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:** Attorney Sigler stated that he had prepared an ordinance for the Regional Development Authority for the Council if they choose to become a member at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. He reviewed the Spyglass agreement and he gives his approval for it. He has also been looking over the County's current elevator contract and recommended that the Commissioners not sign a new contract until he reviews it.

**IN THE MATTER OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES:** John Woodmansee, who is in charge of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Program at the Extension office, gave an update to the Commissioners. There have been many new activities that he has started over the last year and a half such as weekly news articles, client inquiries, farm visits, and on-site research, etc. John also spoke about the Master Gardener program in the County that is a volunteer program which had a total of 2,578 volunteer hours in 2014. He stated that they also educate the local farmers on several different aspects such as crop disease management, weed problems, seeding rates, etc.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COESSE SEWER PROJECT:** Mark Jesse from GAI Consultants presented a scheduled and the permit application to the Commissioners for the Coesse Sewer Project. He needs the Commissioners' approval to proceed with the project and get the advertisement in the paper for companies to submit their bids for the project. He stated that no prebid is needed and an NTP must be done in an executive session. The bid opening is going to be on June 22, 2015 at 9:00 AM. There also needed to be a liquidated damages amount which has been set at \$750.00 a day. After discussion, Commissioner Schrupf made a motion for Chairman Rethlake to sign the permit with the evaluation by Mark and Dan, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. There will be seven houses in Coesse that will connect to the sewer plus the Church and the connection fee is roughly \$1,000.00.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY UPDATE:** GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold gave an update on the aerial photography for the County. Due to weather conditions, the company was able to fly this spring but the photos were with the leaves on the trees. They have given us this aerial photography for free and they will plan to fly in May of 2016.

**IN THE MATTER OF REQUESTS TO USE COUNTY FACILITIES:** Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant discussed the request forms for the use of the County facilities due to some damage that was recently done to the Courthouse. He would like to add or change the document to have a sign-off sheet and have a list of "Do's" and "Don'ts". The Commissioners advised Mark to work with County Coordinator Pam Smith in creating a new form that has these changes. Mark also spoke with the Commissioners about the parking lot in town that the County owns for jury duty in court cases. It continues to be damaged by the trucks that park there. Commissioner Rethlake stated that he would ask the City if they would like to take ownership of the parking lot or Performance PC.

**IN THE MATTER OF REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSE REPAIRS AT THE MUSEUM:** Dani Tippman from the Museum presented the standards for historic preservation to the Commissioners in regard to re-siding the Museum. Of the standards that she reviewed, number six stated that "Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence". With this being said, Dani believes that we are able to use siding on the Museum. After discussion, Commissioner Amber made a motion to obtain quotes to reside the Museum and to insulate as needed, seconded by Schrupf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners would also like Dani to pursue grant possibilities due to it being a historical property.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Highway Director Michael Barton stated that the highway is currently repairing and replacing several roads within the County. So far, they have

replaced about 27 or 28 miles and have rented a milling machine to use for road repair. The highway department is also getting several roads ready for a double seal next year.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR:** County Coordinator Pam Smith informed the Commissioners that there have been numerous injuries due to lifting items this past year. She stated that Parkview Occupational Health offers ergonomic training which teaches employees how to properly lift items. The sessions for the training are approximately 45 minutes with video and interaction at a rate of \$120.00. Commissioner Amber made a motion to move forward with the training, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Pam also presented the current cell phone users for the County and what the total cost is currently per month. The County has the option to eliminate County phones and offer a \$30 monthly stipend to employees. The stipend would save the County roughly \$92.71 per month which is \$1,112.52 yearly. The Commissioners requested that the Auditor find out the number of people who already receive a stipend for their phone bill.

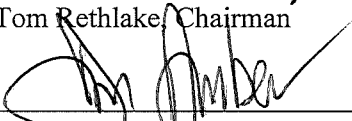
**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The minutes from the May 18, 2015 Commissioner meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claims were reviewed by the Commissioners. After review and discussion, a motion to approve the claims was made by Commissioner Amber, seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

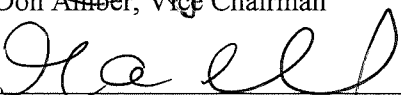
**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Commissioner Schrumpf reported that the County's health insurance is only going to increase by 3.6% if we continue to stay self-insured. There are two other companies that Commissioner Schrumpf is looking into for health insurance and he is also checking on liability insurance. In regard to transplant insurance, it would cost the County an additional \$12,000 to \$18,000 for health insurance. He stated that he has also attended the meetings for the future of US 30 and the State has quotes out for design and as of right now there is no bypass in the plans. Commissioner Amber stated that UMBAUGH is scheduled to meet with the Auditor on June 16 or 17 to review the funds and budgets for the past few years. In regard to the Cumulative Bridge rate, Commissioner Amber has created the paperwork that needs to be advertised for a two cent (\$0.02) increase. He hopes to have the public hearing on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and pass the ordinance on July 6, 2015. Commissioner Rethlake asked what the Commissioners felt about joining the Regional Development Authority. After discussion, two Commissioners were in favor with Commissioner Amber not in favor. Rethlake also handed out a copy of his ideal CEDIT plan for 2016. In regard to the grant agreement for Emergency Management, after review Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the grant, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Rethlake reported that effective immediately, the County's Emergency Management Director has resigned. Due to Attorney Sigler giving his approval on the Spyglass agreement, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.


There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Commissioner Rethlake adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.

#### WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Tom Rethlake, Chairman

  
Don Amber, Vice Chairman

  
George Schrumpf

Attest:   
Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor