

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 6, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, July 6, 2015 at 1:00 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 Schrumpf. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Mark Parker from the Post and Mail, Clerk Debbie Beers, Treasurer Laurell Hodges, Recorder April Whetstone, Highway Director Michael Barton, Vicky Schrader, Bill Etzler, Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant, and Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library.

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

**IN THE MATTER OF COMPENSATORY TIME DISCUSSION:** Whitley County Clerk Debbie Beers expressed her concern to the Commissioners about eliminating compensatory time. She stated that with eliminating compensatory time, she would have to increase her budget, along with the other departments to include overtime pay. Every office is different and has different needs and there is much diversity between the offices. There were many different options presented to the Commissioners such as having a separate policy for certain departments or allowing comp time, but employees would have to use it within a certain amount of time. After much discussion, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to table the matter until their next Commissioner meeting, seconded by Amber with requesting a vote from each department, and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Highway Director Michael Barton gave an update for the highway department. Michael stated that they received information back from the State on the County's mileage. They have subtracted eight miles from our mileage and we now have 632 miles of road instead of 640 miles. This represents about \$25,000 and the State highway informed Michael that every County lost mileage. The reason for the loss of mileage is due to the new sophisticated way that they are calculating it. Michael also informed the Commissioners that there will be no milling in 2016 for the roads.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR:** County Coordinator Pam Smith presented a new form to request the use of County facilities. The Commissioners reviewed the form and noted the changes with the terms and conditions which include the listed agency or person(s) will be financially responsible for any damage to County property. They are also responsible to pick up any trash left from the event. After review, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the new Request/Permission to Use County Facilities form, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. There is a current request from Whitley County Community Christmas Committee for Friday and Saturday, December 4 and 5, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. They would like to utilize the inside of the Courthouse and the Courthouse lawn. After speaking with Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant, he stated that there is always extra clean up needed with this specific group. Commissioner Amber recommended that we possibly have a charge for the cleaning and asked what Mark would like to charge. After discussion, Commissioner Amber made a motion to charge \$40.00 per night to this group for cleaning fees before we approve this request, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The minutes from the June 15, 2015 Commissioner meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Amber requested one correction. The correction was for under "In the matter of EMS Dispatch". There are two places where it states that the Parkview EMS dispatch covers six Counties, but it needs to read four Counties. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the minutes with this change, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. The special session minutes from June 22, 2015 were also reviewed. Commissioner Amber made one correction. The date at the top of the minutes read "July 22, 2015 and it needs to read June 22, 2015". Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the special session minutes with this correction, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed 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 Schrumpf, seconded by Commissioner Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Commissioner Schrumpf gave an update on hiring a new Planning Director. The Planning Commission had their meeting and they took a vote to offer the position to Victoria Chavez. She is well qualified for the position and has her Master's degree. The previous candidate that they offered it to denied the offer. Commissioner Amber made a motion to offer the position to Victoria, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber gave an update on the EMA Director. At this time, there have been no further steps taken to hire a new EMA director at an advisor board meeting. Commissioner Rethlake stated that Mark Sturtevant is concerned about getting rid of his County cell phone due to the alarms for the buildings being on it and he would like to keep it. The Commissioners recommended that Mark may keep his phone; he just needs to add it to his budget for 2016. Rethlake reported that the people that were nominated by the Commissioners were all elected to the

RDA board. There was discussion on Travelers insurance because there will be an increase in our rate for searches and the possibility for picking out people that may have suicidal tendencies. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that we are going to get a renewal with an increase of 8% plus our deductible is going from \$25.00 to \$50.00. Preferred IT is almost done with two of the projects that they presented earlier in the year. County Coordinator Pam Smith is hoping that after all of the projects are complete that the County will be able to go back and renegotiate the contract. Scott Jones would like to replace his voice recorder with J & K Communications with a contract for three years. He would like approval from the Commissioners to have the contract for three years rather than one year. Commissioner Amber stated that as long as a three year contract saves the County money, he believes the Commissioners should leave the decision to Scott.

Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented a right of way permit application from NIPSCO for the relocation of an 8" steel gas main under Big Indian Creek along the west side of South 800 East. The purpose of the relocation is due to the County's replacement of Bridge 76 and there has been recent damage to the portion of this gas main by a vehicle. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the right of way permit for NIPSCO, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. A second right of way permit application was from Frontier to bore 25' under North 825 East to place the necessary equipment for a residence located at 2950 North 825 East. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Auditor Schinbeckler informed the Commissioners that the State has reduced its mileage reimbursement rate from \$0.44 to \$0.40 due to the declining fuel prices. Commissioner Amber indicated that we need to stay at the same rate as the State, therefore he made a motion for the County's mileage reimbursement rate to go from \$0.44 per mile to \$0.40 per mile effective August 1, 2015. The motion was seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Peterson Consulting Services gave their letter to Auditor Schinbeckler to present it to the Commissioners. Attorney Sigler has reviewed the document and has given his approval. Their services are used to aid in the reporting of the County's assets. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the letter, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. There was also a building entry agreement from Century Link that Attorney Sigler also approved which allows Century Link to use all parts of the building, the Extension Office, to install, maintain, upgrade, etc. all of the equipment that they need to install. After review of the building entry agreement, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Liane Minier from the EDC had a request to the Commissioners for permission to replace the benches in the Courthouse Gazebo. She stated that the benches she is requesting are teak and they are roughly \$700.00 but the company is willing to sell them to the County for \$350.00 a piece and we would need three. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the purchase of the benches, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. At the August 3, 2015 meeting there will be department heads attending the meeting to discuss dispatch. Commissioner Rethlake discussed the CEDIT plan with the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to leave the projects for the Council on Aging and the Humane Society both at \$25,000 and decrease on & off site improvements to \$200,000 instead of \$250,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf with a 2/1 vote with Rethlake voting against. Rethlake reported that Wheeler Mechanical owes about \$90,000 in back taxes and penalties due to the soil on their property being contaminated. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that we should possibly test the soil to see if it is still contaminated. If it is not, the Commissioners would like to put the property in a Commissioner's sale and own the property. First, they would like to send a letter to give the owners a chance to pay their taxes before legal action is taken. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to send a letter to the owners of Wheeler Mechanical requesting them to pay their taxes, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

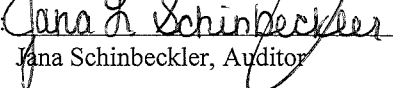
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

#### WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Tom Rethlake, Chairman

  
Don Amber, Vice Chairman

  
George Schrumpf

Attest:   
Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor