

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 8, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, September 8, 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, Don Amber, and George Schrumpf. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Joan Null, Nick Rupert from the Post & Mail, County Engineer Brandon Forrester, Russ Gilliom from the Whitley County Historical Society, Joseph Mrak from RQAW Consulting Engineers and Architects, Planning Director Victoria Chavez, Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, and Bill Etzler from Engineering Resources.

Chairman Rethlake opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: County Attorney Dan Sigler rewrote the Pre Tax Plan for Whitley County in regard to County benefits. He changed the Plan Administrator from the County Auditor to the County Coordinator. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the new Pre Tax Plan, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the SpyGlass contract, Attorney Sigler stated that as long as we have not asked them to implement changes then we are able to cancel the contract. Commissioner Amber made a motion to cancel the contract and for Attorney Sigler to write a letter to them, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. The last concern brought up was from the minutes for December 15, 2014. There was a motion in the meeting, "Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to pay \$50,000 from CEDIT to the Museum to help pay for the annex, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote". Commissioner Amber made a motion to amend that motion to pay \$50,000 from CEDIT to the Whitley County Historical Society to help pay for the annex, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE VEHICLE REQUEST: County Engineer Brandon Forrester requested a vehicle for his employee that works in the field checking drains. He found six different quotes for the Commissioners ranging from \$29,056 to \$33,403.25 and they are all either Chevy, Ford, or Dodge. The current truck that is being used is having to be fixed often and the expenses keep adding up. Brandon checked to see how much the County could potentially get for the current truck which was around \$9,400. The Commissioners asked Brandon to check and see what Kelley Chevrolet and City Chevrolet would give the County for a trade in. After discussion, Commissioner Schrumpf made a favorable pass to the Council to purchase a new truck, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF FEES FOR THE PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Planning Director Victoria Chavez presented changes to fees for the Planning and Building Department. The department in the past has been able to fund 52% of their budget and they are now down to 40%. The last increase occurred in 2011 with minor increases to match the Counties surrounding Whitley County. Commissioner Amber made a motion to accept the fees as provided, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Victoria reported that this still needs the approval of the City Council. Victoria also spoke to the Commissioners about a new vehicle for the Building Inspector. She is looking into purchasing a 2016 Ford Escape that is four wheel drive. The prices vary from \$21,400 to \$22,400 for two new Escapes which are both in Goshen. There are also two used vehicles in Columbia City and one is for \$17,800 at Rhoades and the other is \$19,900 at City Chevrolet. Commissioner Amber made a favorable pass for the 2016 Escape, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF RQAW PRESENTATION ON JAIL STUDY: Joseph Mrak from RQAW Consulting Engineers and Architects attended the meeting to offer the Commissioners a second opinion on the DLZ Feasibility study that was for the Jail and Work Release facilities. RQAW is the same company that were the engineers for the Government Center so the County

has worked with them in the past. The Commissioners stated that the dilemma at this time would be funding but if he would like to take a look at the final study and give a second opinion, they are willing to do so.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR: County Coordinator Pam Smith presented two requests to use County facilities to the Commissioners. The first was from the Junior Achievement Board for the Annual Junior Achievement Car Show on Saturday, August 6, 2016. They requested to use the Courthouse lawn and the Courthouse Gazebo for the car show. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request was from the Whitley County Community Christmas Committee. It is for the Whitley County Community Christmas Celebration on Friday and Saturday, December 4th and 5th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. They requested to use the Courthouse and the Courthouse lawn. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Koorsen Fire & Security contacted Pam to ask if the County is still responsible for the alarms at the TROY Center. Commissioner Amber stated that it is the responsibility of the Township Trustee and he made a motion to cancel the service for the County, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Pam reported that the 2015 Health Fair for County employees is going to be November 13th from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. They will be offering flu shots from the Immunization Clinic and Pam asked if the Commissioners would still like to pay for part time employee's flu shots. Commissioner Amber made a motion to pay for part time employee's flu shots, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the August 17, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Amber made two corrections to the minutes. The minutes state, "In the Matter of Trial Metals" and it should read "In the Matter of Triad Metals". The second correction is under In the Matter of the Highway Department. It reads, "The intersection was to be reconstructed such as cutting down the hill and realigning the road" but it should read, "The intersection was requested by the public to be reconstructed such as cutting down the hill and realigning the road." Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the minutes with these changes, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claims were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Rethlake stated that the rental payment to Etna Troy needs to be voided. We will be receiving another invoice from them for \$1,200 instead of paying \$2,400. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the claims with this void, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant gave an update to the Commissioners in regard to the vinyl siding for the Museum. Smith Roofing and Remodeling gave their estimate for a basic residing job at \$35,735 and a detailed siding job at \$50,285. T&L Construction gave their estimate for a basic residing job at \$56,126 and a detailed siding job for \$60,646. Mark stated that there is some painting involved, shutters need some work done, and he received quotes for insulation. The first quote for insulation was from Columbia City Insulation for \$2,419 and the second was from Momper Insulation who stated there was adequate insulation and did not recommend adding any. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table this matter until the next meeting to review the information given, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the EMA Director position, the EMA Advisory Board has recommended Amy Biggs for the position. Commissioner Amber made a motion to offer the position to Amy Biggs for full time EMA Director and she has to work it in between the full time Fort Wayne Fire Department position she has to begin September 21, 2015. The motion was seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/1 vote with Rethlake voting against. Commissioner Rethlake stated that we need to ask for changes to the comprehensive plan for the City on behalf of the County. He also stated that there are steel trucks still cutting across County Roads that we need to check the ordinance and possibly put up a "No Thru Trucks" sign.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Rethlake adjourned the meeting at 2:45 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tom Rethlake
Tom Rethlake, Chairman

Don Amber
Don Amber, Vice Chairman

George Schrumpf
George Schrumpf

Attest: Jana Schinbeckler
Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor

