

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 21, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, September 21, 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, Highway Director Michael Barton, Debra Darr from Whitley County Council on Aging, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Billy Reffitt from Reffitt Investments, LLC, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, and Stanley Crum from Wood-Land-Lakes.

Chairman Rethlake opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: County Attorney Dan Sigler informed the Commissioners that he does have an order to test the Wheeler property from the Judge and he is giving it the County Coordinator Pam Smith to give to the Health Inspector Scott Wagner. Scott will then be able to notify Mr. Wheeler of the testing and he will be able to perform the testing with the order from the Court.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2016 OPERATING GRANT: Debra Darr from Whitley County Council on Aging presented the 2016 operating grant to the Commissioners. The grant is administered through the Indiana Department of Transportation that is a State and Federal grant. They receive approximately \$44,000 per quarter for the Federal portion and \$16,000 from the State. It is a pass through from the State, to the County, and then to the Council on Aging. Debra needed the Commissioners to approve and sign the grant. After review, Commissioner Amber made the motion to approve the grant, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR: County Coordinator Pam Smith presented a request to the Commissioners to use County facilities. The request was from the Domestic Violence Task Force to use the facilities on September 30, 2015 at 4:45 PM to decorate the Courthouse gazebo and leave the decorations up until October 31, 2015. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with all in favor. In regard to medical insurance, we have a new TPA and they are recommending a policy change for the County. The TPA recommends that the last day worked by the employee is their last day of insurance coverage at midnight instead of the last day of the same month. After discussion, Commissioner Schrumpf made the motion to approve the policy change, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/1 vote with Amber voting against. The effective date for this policy change will be determined at a later date.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Highway Director Michael Barton informed the Commissioners that their summer hours will end on September 25, 2015 and their first full Friday will be October 2, 2015. The Highway Department has 99.5% of the construction done for this year and fifteen miles of milled roads are ready to be sealed next spring. Barton is giving the Commissioners an opportunity to see what the Highway Department has done construction wise for this year on October 7, 2015. They will be taking a bus around the County to view the roads. They have also put in a detour for the bridge on County Line Road to let traffic know which way to go to get around the bridge.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the September 8, 2015 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. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote.

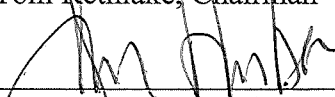
IN OTHER BUSINESS: Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented a utility permit from Century Link to the Commissioners. The utility permit is to place buried cable facilities on County Road 100 South, West of US 30, for a length of 410 ft. They are replacing a bad section of cable west of the Richland Township Fire Station. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the utility request, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Stanley Crum from Wood-Land-Lakes gave a thank you letter to the Commissioner's for their yearly gift of \$400. Stanley also reviewed their May 2015 minutes with the Commissioners. Wood-Land-Lakes continues to get endowment offers as long as they continue their original purpose which is to protect agricultural land. Commissioner Rethlake presented the new EMA Director Amy Biggs. Her supervisor, Rick Dolson, also attended the meeting with her to explain the process of grants. He stated that the Auditor will now be the main signee for grants. Commissioner Amber reported that Kim Reiff has resigned from the EMA Advisory Board. He believes that he is the Larwill representative so they will need to find a replacement. There are currently 74 people at Community Corrections and they have received a \$25,000 grant to purchase new vending machines. Commissioner Rethlake stated that he is working on the history of the land fill. He believes the County bought the land fill in 1978 and it was for common, ordinary trash for when the County did not have garbage pickup. Billy Reffitt from Reffitt Investments, LLC informed the Commissioners that he is interested in purchasing the Abstract Title building. He would like to have seven apartments to rent out and he needs parking in order to do so. He would like to either buy or lease a parking lot from the Commissioners. The Courthouse overflow parking lot is one of the lots he was looking into and the Commissioners stated that he would be responsible for maintenance and upkeep. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that he would work with Mr. Reffitt to discuss a lease.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Rethlake adjourned the meeting at 2:05 PM.

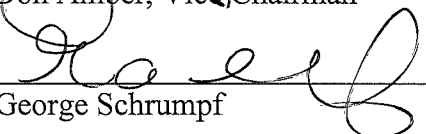
WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




Tom Rethlake, Chairman



Don Amber, Vice Chairman



George Schrumpf

Attest: 

Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor