

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

October 5, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, October 5, 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, Stanley Crum, Paul Johnson, Rick Dolsen, and EMA Director Amy Biggs.

Chairman Rethlake opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: County Attorney Dan Sigler reported that there will be mandatory sexual harassment training for Whitley County employees on October 15, 2015. He will be conducting the training for the employees and department heads.

IN THE MATTER OF THE BIDS FOR THE WHEELER PROPERTY: Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented bids for the Wheeler property at 301 Diamond Avenue for soil testing. The soil is thought to be contaminated and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management does have an open case on the property. There were two businesses that submitted bid. SES submitted a bid for \$3,490.00 to \$6,484.00 and ERS submitted a bid for \$14,125.00. The testing will take about two days before either business would have a report on if the soil is contaminated or not. After reviewing the bids, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the bid from SES, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE E-GRANT SIGNATORY DISCUSSION: EMA Director Amy Biggs presented the new grant process to the Commissioners. A resolution now has to be passed by the Commissioners in order for a grant to be submitted to the State for approval. There must be one Commissioner to sign the resolution but it is not allowed to be the Chairman Commissioner. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the e-signatures by resolution with the County Attorney's approval and have Don sign the resolutions, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR: County Coordinator Pam Smith informed the Commissioners that the County's new TPA from STAR Insurance told Pam that under IC code 5-10-8-2.2 a local unit public employer that provides medical group insurance coverage to its employees is to also provide an insurance program for their retired employees. For example, if someone retires at age 60, until they turn 65 and are on Medicare we will provide insurance for them. The County is able to dictate how much they would like the retired employee to pay of their premium. STAR recommended that the Commissioners have the retired employee pay the full amount. Commissioner Amber made a motion that the Commissioners will provide insurance but the employee will have to pay the max amount, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the policy change from the last meeting for insurance with employees who are discharged and their insurance will automatically terminate at midnight on the day that the employee ceases to be a full-time employee, the Commissioners did not give an effective date. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to have the policy change for insurance effective on November 1, 2015, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Pam presented the 2016 Holiday Schedule to the Commissioners. The County employees would have one more holiday than 2015 due to the election. After review, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the holiday schedule with fourteen holidays, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Pam gave a reminder for a few upcoming events such as the sexual harassment training for employees on October 15th, the Halloween costume party is October 30th, and the Health Fair on November 13th. Pam also received information from the Sheriff's department for the two compressors that were needed. The Sheriff has paid \$8,000 for the compressors which makes a remaining balance of \$7,970 and the Sheriff's department is requesting the Commissioners to find a place to pay the remaining balance. Commissioner Amber made a motion to pass this

request to the Council, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Pam sent a letter to the Commissioners regarding a position refactor in the Planning & Building department through the personnel committee. On September 22, 2015 the personnel committee refactored the Assistant Planner's role and they refactored it from a COMOT to a PAT which did increase the salary by \$4,444. The Assistant Planner's salary would now be \$39,274 which is requested to be effective as of September 27, 2015. Pam also requested a one-time pay incentive for \$1,367.36 to the Assistant Planner while they assumed the duties and roles of the Planning Director for March 27, 2015 through July 27, 2015. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the one-time incentive pay and for the salary change for the Assistant Planner, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

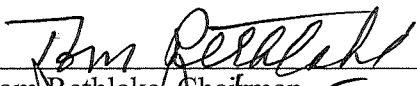
IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Highway Director Michael Barton gave an update on the highway department. They are currently done with 2015 construction but now they are performing maintenance during the fall before winter comes. The maintenance consists of removing dirt along the side of the roads, removing brush along the roads and cutting it back away from the roadways, and they also have small pipe projects they are working on. Mr. Paul Johnson expressed his concern for some of the roads in the County to the Commissioners and the Highway Director. They assured him that they did an analysis on the roads and picked the top ten out of twenty-five that were in immediate need of being repaired.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the September 21, 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 Amber made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented the 2016 Commissioner meeting schedule. The meeting schedule will remain the same with it being the first and third Monday of each month. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the 2016 meeting schedule, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Auditor Schinbeckler also requested a County credit card to be issued for conferences that are State called Auditor Conferences. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the credit card request, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with all in favor. Commissioner Amber brought the topic of Museum maintenance expenditures that was tabled at the last meeting. After discussion, Commissioner Amber made a motion to table the Museum maintenance expenditures until the first quarter of next year, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Rethlake requested a payout to Kim Reiff because he filled in as the EMA Director while we did not have one. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to pass the decision for a \$1,000 payout to Kim Reiff to the Council for his time served as the EMA Director, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners also received the yearly report from Community Corrections. Commissioner Rethlake also stated that he does not have any updates on the parking lot with Billy Reffitt.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Rethlake adjourned the meeting at 2:40 PM.


WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




Tom Rethlake, Chairman



Don Amber, Vice Chairman



George Schrumpf

Attest: 

Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor