

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
April 15, 2013

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a special session on Monday, April 15, 2013 at 10:00 am in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman George Schrumpf, Don Amber and Tom Rethlake. Also in attendance were Auditor Jennifer McGuire, Michael Barton, Dan Avery, Randy Knach, Stacy Gorsuch, Bill Hartman and Mike Thornson.

Chairman Schrumpf called the meeting to order.

The special meeting was to gather information as a work session for County Road 800 East that is known as the County Line Road between Allen County and Whitley County. There needs to be traffic data, truck usage and a strategy for completing the sections. Phases of completion will be divided into Group 4 and Urban Area for Grant Funding or local funds, will be used to complete the work. Highway Supervisor Michael Barton will work with Dan Avery from Allen County in 2-3 work sessions to come up with an overall cost for the project and look at the time frame that the work will be completed.

At this time Vice Chair Amber made a motion to suspend the meeting, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

Chairman Schrumpf reconvened the regular session Commissioner's meeting at 1pm. In attendance were James Yadon, Doug Rees-Evans, Frank Hoffman, Tami Kreager, Cathy Broxon-Ball, Marcus Gatton, Sheriff Hodges, Lynn Hindbaugh, Bill Smith Katie Wagner, Brandon Forrester, Russell Hazelet, Holly Hicks, Tom O'Neill, Alice Anderson and Alan Tio

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY: County Attorney Dan Sigler addressed two County Ordinances. The first ordinance is the fee to register as a sex offender in Whitley County, which is \$50.00, Commissioner Rethlake noted some language and spelling that needed addressed in the Ordinance #2013-02 so the corrections will be made and the Ordinance advertised before it takes effect. The next Ordinance addressed is the County Wheel Tax/Surtax the "Sunset" clause dates need removed, the use of the funds needs revised for gravel roads and the amount charged per vehicle needs to be presented to the County Council for review. The fees will need to be advertised two times in two different papers before it takes effect for 2014.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY WELLNESS: Tami Kreager from Superior Court introduced the Whitley County Walkers program from the YMCA. Tami wants the Commissioners blessing to form a Committee for the County employees to use this program as a source of wellness. The program starts in June and runs until November with the last challenge being the Veteran's Marathon. Maybe participate in a challenge between the County and City by employees if enough interest. The Commissioners all think this is a great idea and will support the program.

IN THE MATTER OF EMPG GRANT AGREEMENT: Cathy Broxon-Ball brought the 2013 annual reimbursement of salaries sub grant agreement for approval from the Commissioners. The Grant reimburses 50% of the base salary for both the EMA director and part-time deputy position. A motion to sign the Grant was made by Rethlake, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF JAIL IMPROVEMENTS: Sheriff Hodges let the Commissioners know the new door opening mechanism has been installed at the jail. Because of the age of the cell blocks each door is being inspected one at a time and upgrades need done to some of the actual cell doors for safety and security. The jail population was 123 for the morning count.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY: Michael Barton, Highway Director, stated that the sealing program for the Summer is getting started. The milling machine will not be rented this year. The main focus will be on patching throughout the County.

IN THE MATTER OF SEMI TRUCK TRAFFIC: James Yadon, a Jefferson Township resident, living on 800 South came before the Commissioners with a complaint of the semi-truck traffic on the County Roads. Most of the confusion is coming from the GPS systems of the trucks coming to and from SDI for pickup and delivery. A representative from SDI, Doug Rees-Evans, was on hand and will draft a letter to the trucking vendors and brokers to address the situation. Commissioner Amber is going to visit the location to see if any signs will alleviate some of the confusion. Mr. Rees-Evans from SDI stated because of the truck volume they are looking at an additional turn lane off of 800 East for trucks waiting to get on the scales and have started an engineering study to address this issue.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Minutes from the April 1, 2013 were reviewed, Commissioner Rethlake wants it noted that no actual “Minutes” were taken at the Executive Session on March 18, 2013 a motion to approve was made by Rethlake, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim disbursements for April 15, 2013 were reviewed by Commissioner Schrumpf, a motion by Rethlake to approve the claims, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAMATION: The requested, “Proclamation”, for the 175th anniversary of Whitley County was addressed. The proclamation will be for the entire month of April and the celebration will be held at the Peabody Library on April 18, 2013 at 6pm. The proclamation will be presented to the Genealogical Society for the celebration.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR: Pam Smith, County Coordinator, presented two requests for the use of the County property. The first request is for May 2, 2012 from The Whitley County National Day of Prayer for the use of the gazebo and lawn, a motion to allow was made by Rethlake, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request is from the Old Settlers Association for the week of June 24 through Saturday June 29, 2013 for the annual festival, a motion to grant the request was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and voted on with a 3/0 result. Smith also had a request for a phone upgrade from the Director of Communications, after discussion a motion by Amber for the \$30.00 increase be allowed, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Pam introduced Holly Hicks from WCCS who is participating in an internship program from the school and wants to go into the field of Human Resource field.

IN THE MATTER OF PASSAGES CEDIT REQUEST: Tom O’Neill, Alice Anderson and Alan Tio came before the Commissioner to address their request for funding from the CEDIT program. They wanted it noted that the \$25,000 request would not be just a donation to Passages but it would be the special needs furniture for the remodeling of the Learning Center. After discussion a motion to give favorable recommendation for the \$25,000 request out of Project #2 OnSite/OffSite Economic Development was made by Rethlake, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The final approval will now have to go before the County Council for disbursement.

IN THE MATTER OF ADA COMPLIANCE: Commissioner Amber addressed the ADA compliance issue. Commissioner Amber has been designated the facilitator for the project. Amber will work off the Guidelines for Transition Plan implemented by the State. At this time Whitley County is not going to use the assistance of a consulting firm. Amber will attend the next seminar in the area and post changes on the County website the changes and contact information.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Brandon Forrester, County Engineer, introduced Russell Hazelet from WCCS who is job shadowing and wants to go into the Engineering Field for Civil or Mechanical Engineering. Auditor McGuire notes that the annual Property tax bills have been mailed for the County. The March 2013 Vehicle Report was submitted by Sheriff Hodges for review. Commissioner Schrumpf addressed the Veteran’s monthly reported and noted the increase of phone and office traffic. Commissioner Rethlake reported on attending the Purdue Extension annual meeting. Rethlake also contacted the Whitley County Literacy Council and they are still using the space at the Extension

With no further business or comments from the public Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote to adjourned the meeting.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

George Schrumpf, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor