

## **WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**November 4, 2013**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, November 4, 2013 at 1:00pm in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman George Schrumpf, Vice Chair Don Amber and Tom Rethlake. Also in attendance were County Attorney Dan Sigler, Auditor Jennifer McGuire, County Coordinator- Pam Smith, Michael Barton, Brandon Forrester, Kurt Heidenrich-Engineering Resources, Mary Hartman, Ted Vesa, Donna Bowen and Katie Wagner.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the pledge.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:** County attorney Dan Sigler addressed four issues, a new Torte Claim was filed against the County from the Ken Nunn law office and has been passed on to Star Insurance for review. The second item tabled from last meeting was the language in the property deeds for the Tri-Lakes Park property and the Camp Samaritan property that was given to the County from the State of Indiana. Attorney Sigler is preparing a "Right of Refusal" statement for the State to sign not limiting the use of the property so it can be transferred to Thorncreek Township with a clear title. The County Bridge Contract was reviewed by Sigler and is now ready to be submitted to INDOT for the 2014 year for approval on County bridge inspections. The last item was the continuance filed in Circuit Court for the Tax Sales issue with Goble/Drapinski and a new date of February 14, 2014 was given by the judge.

**IN THE MATTER OF BRIDGE INSPECTION AND CONTRACT:** Brandon Forrester, County Engineer, and Kurt Heidenrich from Engineering Resources were present again to address any final questions on the Bridge Contract before final submittal to INDOT. A motion by Amber to submit the Contract from Engineering Resources to INDOT for approval, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Forrester also updated the Commissioners on the rail equipment that was removed on 700 East. The reimbursement of funds has not been processed yet from the State office and Brandon will stay in contact. A drainage issue in Thorncreek Township at Wilcken & Center Drive, flooding in the roadway will require an inlet be placed in the right-away to assist in the run off. This project will require 100-150 feet of tile, Barton and Forrester will inspect for actual water standing in the roadway. Brandon has contacted INDOT for their approval to place the two AIC County Achievement Award signs on the east and west sides of State Road #30 when entering Whitley County.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** Minutes from the October 18, 2013 meeting were reviewed, Rethlake made a motion to approve, Amber seconded with discussion. He did not agree with the wording used in the paragraph regarding the request from Parkview regarding the change in the paint structure for the ambulances. Now the "Entire" ambulance will be painted the Parkview green and "Whitley County" will only have a 2X3 area for logo and also there will be "NO" revision to the current contract for this change to occur. With all the changes, Rethlake withdrew his motion to allow Auditor McGuire to note corrections, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote to table until the second Commissioner meeting in November. The November 4, 2014 disbursement of claims was reviewed by Commissioner Rethlake. After discussion a motion was made by Rethlake to approve the claims, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. Michael Barton, Highway Director, will look into cost to repair a chassis on County truck #33 and if an accident report should have been filed.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISSOLVING A BOARD:** Resolution #2013-29 already signed by the City was presented to the Commissioners for approval. This resolution will dissolve the current joint Columbia City-Whitley County Building Authority established in September 1984 for the construction of the Whitley County jail building. After discussion a motion by Amber to sign the resolution was made, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Auditor McGuire will check on the ownership title of the property.

**IN THE MATTER OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOARDS:** A letter addressing three appointments to the Whitley County Health Board expires December 31, 2013. Dr. Lisa Hatcher, Elizabeth Hill and Carol Gueulich have all been contacted and have agreed to serve another four

years, beginning January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2017. After discussion and a request to send “Thank You” letters to the three individuals for serving on the Board, a motion was made to allow the Chairman Schrupf to sign all three requests from the Whitley County Health Board.

**IN THE MATTER OF PLAN COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:** Dave Sewell emailed two interested candidates that meet the qualifications to the Commissioners for the Commissioner’s Appointment to the South Whitley Plan Commission. The two candidates are Wayne Swender and Ross Staller. Applications are still open until November 8, 2013. Amber made a motion to table any decisions until the Commissioner’s November 18, 2013 meeting for both the South Whitley Plan Commission and the Whitley County Plan Commission, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER:** The Commissioners reviewed the monthly Veteran’s Affair report. The Commissioners wanted to “Thank” both Gene Rohrer and Dick Eckert for all the work they do with the Whitley County veterans. Also noted in the report was that a representative from the Fort Wayne Vet Center will be on location at the Peabody Library starting Friday December 6, 2013 every first and third Friday of the month. The Vet centers specialize in helping veterans readjust to civilian life. Commissioner Rethlake will be looking into moving the Veteran Service office to the Courthouse Annex for more room and privacy. He will look into parking options and rooms available at the Annex location.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT:** Commissioner Schrupf reported that the Personnel Committee has reclassified the new Maintenance position, but at this time the position will not be filled. Discussion on the job descriptions for each individual listing what building each maintenance person is responsible for in their line of work. At this time the snow removal at the jail will be done by the maintenance department more equipment might be needed or does the County want to Contract again for the removal at the jail parking lot will need to be determined. The County Highway will help out whenever they can, but not take away from the time spent on actual County roads.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR:** Pam Smith reminded the Commissioners that the County Health Fair will be Friday November 8, 2013 from 8-3pm. The County Health Trust had a balance of \$179,425 as of November 1, 2013. The final County health insurance plans were delivered and ready for the Commissioner’s to sign. Pam explained a new plan offered by our insurance for MCC- Managed Chronic Care as a second opinion or health risk program. After discussion on the cost and what benefits the employees would actually receive a motion to not accept the Mange Care program at this time was made by Amber, seconded by Tom and carried with a 3/0 vote not to approve the new program.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY HIGHWAY:** Michael Barton gave an update on the projects at the Highway Department. The two County Achievement signs are at the Highway Department until approved from the State to be put up on US Highway #30. The Highway bids will be advertised for 2014. All bids need to be delivered to the Auditor’s office by 9:00am on December 2, 2014 and will be opened at 10:30 am by the Commissioners. All final decisions and recommendations will be given at the December 16, 2014 Commissioner meeting at 1pm.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Commissioner Amber is completing the newspaper article for the Commissioners. Commissioners discussed contracting the IT for the entire County or looking into staffing an in house IT person. They want to look into the cost and compare to surrounding Counties our size. Auditor McGuire will do a year to date breakdown by departments on appropriations for

office supplies. Review the printing overages from the Advanced Imaging bills and bill each department directly for any extra cost. In regards to House Bill #1219 Whitley County is not going to implement any changes at this time for removal of names from the County website maintenance. Chad Burch from Phillips Financial will attend the County Council meeting to address and questions on the new Healthcare plan for Whitley County and increase in charges.

With no further input from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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George Schrumpf, Chairman

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Don Amber, Vice Chairman

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Tom Rethlake

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer McGuire  
Auditor