

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**November 18, 2013**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, November 18, 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, Gene Rohrer, Richard Eckert, Christie Barkley, Mary Hartman, Brandon Forrester, Stanley Crum, Joan Hull, Dave Sewell and Katie Wagner.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the pledge.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:** County attorney Dan Sigler updated the Commissioners with the work on deeds with the State for the property located at Tri-Lakes and implementing a "Right of Refusal" to be signed. Auditor McGuire will send copies of the legal descriptions for both the Tri-Lakes Park property and the Camp Samaritan property. Attorney Sigler will complete the Quit Claim deed for the jail property with the dissolution of the Columbia City/Whitley County Building Authority and put the property in the name of the Whitley County Commissioners. Remediation is in the works on the class action suit for the Bickel case.

**IN THE MATTER OF BRIDGE INSPECTION CONTRACT:** Brandon Forrester, County Engineer, presented the final Contract for the Whitley County Bridge Inspection with Engineering Resources, Inc. being the consultant for the services being performed. Noting some language changes from the State from the original contract approved by Attorney Sigler, a motion by Amber to approve the amended Contract, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENTS:** Dave Sewell, Planning & Building, presented four candidates that showed interest in filling the recently vacated position on the Whitley County Plan Commission and also on the BZA. After reviewing the applicants and discussion a motion by Amber to nominate Mark Mynhier, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Tabled from the November 4<sup>th</sup> Commissioner's meeting the candidates for the South Whitley Plan Commissioner was discussed again. After discussion a motion to appoint Wayne Swender was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE VSO OFFICE:** Gene Rohrer and Dick Eckert were on hand to discuss the office location for the current Veteran Service office. The access to the current office requires all appointments to walk through the Assessor's office to meet with the Veteran Service officer. Rohrer feels if the office moves to the other end there will be more room and less distraction. With the interaction of other offices, Rohrer wants to remain in the Government Center but really needs more room and sometimes more privacy. Different options were discussed and the issue was tabled for more review.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** Minutes from the November 4, 2013 Commissioner's meeting were reviewed, Amber made a motion to approve, Rethlake seconded and carried with a 3/0 vote. The disbursements of claims for the November 18, 2013 were reviewed by Commissioner Schrumpf. After discussion a motion to allow the claims was made by Rethlake, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT:** Discussion of recent use of personal vehicles for trips between the buildings by the Maintenance Department. Commissioners discussed the mileage claims and wear and tear on the individual's vehicles for trips from different County building locations, Community Corrections, Museum, Annex, and Jail etc. Does the cost of mileage justify the purchase of a vehicle for the department to use? A motion was made by Amber to correct the current County Policy involving mileage, and that "No" mileage from home to work will be allowed for employees and do a cost comparison for the mileage cost –vs.- the County purchase another vehicle, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Also noted if there is a new vehicle it would include a snow plow for parking lot maintenance in the winter.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE TWO YEAR CEDIT PROJECTS:** Chairman Schrumpf presented his final draft of the 2014/2015 CEDIT (County Economic Development Income Tax). There are currently ten projects that are going to be presented to the County Council for approval.

- Project #1 Economic Development
- Project #2 GIS Projects
- Project #3 On-site/Off-Site Improvements Projects
- Project #4 Whitley County Council on Aging

- Project #5 Purchase County Highway Truck
- Project #6 County Website Maintenance
- Project #7 Whitley County Humane Society
- Project #8 Community Corrections Building
- Project #9 Courthouse Repairs
- Project #10 Troy Center Administrative Expenses

Discussion of the amounts allocated to each project funded was reviewed by the Commissioners. It was also noted that this is just a draft and each project can be amended or revised and further projects can be added if the needed throughout the year with County Council's approval. A motion by Amber to accept the Final Draft of the 2014/2015 CEDIT Plan and present to County Council was made, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BUILDING:** Commissioner Rethlake gave an update on the Community Corrections building with the damage from the room's A/C- Heating units. The facility is currently at capacity. There is a need for twelve units that are not working. The cost is \$765.00 per unit, after discussion of funding a motion by Amber to allow the purchase for the units out of CEDIT from this 2013 year, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. The units will be installed by the maintenance department. The structure damage to the walls was sent out for bids, of the three contractors only two bid on the project, Schwartz Construction and T & L Construction. The outside repair will not be started until Spring of 2014 for the water damage in the walls.

**IN THE MATTER OF COURTHOUSE ROOF:** Mark Sturtevant from Maintenance presented a Contract for the work to be done on the Courthouse roof in 2014. After discussion on the cost and options for warranty and bond on the project a motion to allow Commissioner Schrumpf to sign the contract was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 2/0 vote. Commissioner Amber abstained.

**IN THE MATTER OF CHURUBUSCO LIBRARY APPOINTMENT:** The Commissioners had a request from the Churubusco Public Library for the re-appointment of Sherry Johnson to a four year term on the Library Board. Her term expires on December 31, 2013. After discussion a motion by Amber to allow the appointment, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF DECEMBER MEETING:** The December 16, 2013 Commissioner Meeting will be held at the Whitley County High School Auditorium. Brochures will be passed out to the Government class prior to the meeting and the students will submit questions regarding County Government.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY CELL PHONES:** Pam Smith gave a comparison report for County cell phone charges. The County may eliminate issued County phones and give all approved employees a stipend and what the cost savings would be. They will review this issue and receive feedback on the usage of all phones before making a decision.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Sheriff Vehicle Inventory Report was discussed on the overall mileage average. Commissioners would like to see the cost savings for the Transport Vehicle after the new Video Conferencing equipment is implemented and being used. Commissioner Amber will be working with Tim Pitts from Encor for a study on the Jail upgrades and the cost savings. Pam Smith, County Coordinator, would like to do recognition certificates for Years of Service for County employees and possibly some type of pin to honor employees. Auditor McGuire updated the Commissioners with the amount of \$75,000 that was collected in Ineligible Homesteads in the Fall tax collection and a report giving the breakdown of appropriations spent for supplies by each department for the 2013 Budget year.

Questions from the public on the CEDIT funding and where it came from and what purposes it could be used for were discussed.

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