

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 17, 2017

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, July 17, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman George Schrumpf, Commissioner Don Amber and Commissioner Thomas Western. Others in attendance were County Attorneys Dan Sigler and Matt Shipman, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pamela Smith, Amy Sharp from LEMSK, LeeAnn Snyder from South Whitley, Janelle Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department, Janet Arnold from South Whitley, Gary Hicks from Cleveland Township, Georgia Lieb from the Post & Mail, Henry Janda from Jefferson Township, Stanley Crum, Jim Fleck from the Bowen Center, Linda Thomson from the Post & Mail, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Andrew Hoskins, Scott Gabriel, Duane Ginder, Jessica Miller, Andrea Sullivan, Eric Clabaugh, Kay Fleck, and Trent Miller all from Parkview, Rob Ryan, Kurt Carlson, Jay Baumgartner, Ted Westerhof, and Jamie Swaidner all from the Bowen Center, Patrick Unger and Scott Sigerfoos from Lutheran Health Network, Whitley County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, Alex Bruggenschmidt from Buchanan & Bruggenschmidt, Sarah Lopez, Keith Schuman from Richland Township, Joe Kessie, Tyler Roebuck from IN Whitley County, David Smith, Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department, Leslee Derbeck and Heidi Darley from STAR Insurance and Whitley County Clerk Debbie Beers.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Sigler discussed the Tattoo Ordinance for Scott Wagner in the Health Department. There was one small change needed in the ordinance that has now been changed. Sigler stated that with that change, he now recommends the Commissioners approve the ordinance. The ordinance has been through the Fee Committee and been approved. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Ordinance 2017-06, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE BOWEN CENTER: The Commissioners request that the Bowen Center give a report to the Commissioners on a regular basis. Kurt Carlson, CEO of the Bowen Center came before the Commissioners with Ted Westerhof and Jamie Swaidner for an update. Jamie stated that the Bowen Center serves the three schools in the area: Whitley County Consolidated, Smith Green Community Schools and Whitko Schools. They serve over 6,000 kids and they have an SAP (Student Assistance Program) which starts kids out in services and then they continue with services at the Bowen Center through the school year. These services ensure the kids will get their education when their behaviors are impeding them getting their education. Bowen Center does school based therapy and work with kids in the autism spectrum as well. They have critical incidence response which is when a suicide or a death in the school district occurs, they offer support for the staff members, students and the community. The Bowen Center has done a two year program for suicide prevention and awareness. They go into the schools and teach the staff how to identify youth at risk. There are 50 employees from the Bowen Center serving the community and they also serve Marshall County, Kosciusko County, Wabash County and Huntington County as well. Last year there were 1,430 persons served and that is 5.4% of Whitley County's population. Commissioner Schrumpf asked if all of their services are billed services. Jamie stated that there are a variety of billed services through Medicaid companies, they provide charity care, court ordered services, etc. 80% of the Bowen Center's revenue is from Medicaid. The \$200,000.00 approximately, that the County pays each year to the Bowen Center, goes towards operational expenses. EAP sessions are per session rate and the County pays for those as well.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PARKVIEW REPORT: Parkview representatives gave a report to the Commissioners for the services they provide. They stated the focus of today is to clear up some misconceptions that have been presented recently and help people understand how Parkview is organized and how the system works. Parkview has a \$50 million facility in Whitley County and has created 343 jobs. These are well paying jobs that exist in the Community and 56% of those employees reside in the area. There are about 15,000 patients that come to Parkview's Emergency Room each year and about 10% of those arrive by ambulance. Due to being a nonprofit organization, Parkview gives back to the community in the form of community benefits. They have charity care, which is for individuals who do not have the ability to pay for their hospital visit so they are not charged because they qualify for charity care. They also donate to nonprofit organizations within the community. The current contract with the County is a five year contract that saved the County around \$400,000.00. In the agreement, Parkview agreed to purchase the ambulances from the County and they added another ambulance for transfers so it did not take away from emergencies. Another issue that has been discussed is the thirteen minute

rule. The thirteen minutes is what Parkview uses as a metric to measure themselves and it is not a goal. Their average time for a South Whitley ambulance run is 6 minutes and the median time is 4 minutes 47 seconds. There are times where they are longer than 13 minutes but Duane will give examples as to why. With 54 runs in South Whitley, 52 of those runs, the ambulance was in the town at the time of the run and 81% of the time the Parkview ambulance is on time. In the last month, they had two runs that took over 20 minutes to get to the scene. The first one happened because there were three runs occur essentially at the same time. The last ambulance that was sent was stuck in road construction which lead to the 20 minute response time. The second occurred when there was six 911 calls all within 63 minutes. CPR instructions were given within 34 seconds of taking the emergency call. There are now a total of 4 ambulances in Whitley County and the new ambulance was added to Thorncreek Township. Scott stated that it is important to realize that residents are not being put at risk when an ambulance is relocated. He also stated that they have not stopped anyone from placing an ambulance in South Whitley and they have volunteered to dispatch that vehicle if that is the most appropriate vehicle and the Parkview ambulances are not available.

IN THE MATTER OF BUCHANAN & BRUGGENSCHMIDT: County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder presented the State IC 6-1.1-22.10 Liability for taxes to the Commissioners that explains the County Treasurer may enforce, by any legal remedy, including a civil lawsuit action may be done to collect delinquent taxes. Laurell is asking to utilize Buchanan & Bruggenschmidt to provide legal services to the County Treasurer and Commissioners in connection with the collection of delinquent real property taxes assessed against a property. The services provided to the County by Buchanan & Bruggenschmidt will be added to the cost for the taxpayer through litigation. Laurell is asking the Commissioners to authorize him to initiate a lawsuit against the property owner to collect taxes that haven't been paid in 25 years. Even though they haven't been paid in 25 years, the County can only bill for the last 10 years. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table this request until County Attorney Matt Shipman can look at the agreement, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF EMS DISPATCH: Randall Cokl came before the Commissioners in regard to EMS Dispatch. He stated that over the past several months he has spoken to the Commissioners about EMS in our community. He specified that he has tirelessly voiced his concerns of the unpredictability of the current system. He has revealed South Whitley's commitment to change to Lutheran EMS and has shared how a partnership between Parkview EMS and Lutheran Whitley EMS would not only be beneficial to South Whitley's residents but all County residents. He described the process and how it would work in detail for South Whitley. He is requesting a motion and a favorable pass from the Commissioners to allow the County Sheriff's dispatch to dispatch for Lutheran EMS for South Whitley. Commissioner Amber made a motion to allow the Sheriff's Department to dispatch the Lutheran ambulance contracted by South Whitley and Cleveland Township. The motion died for lack of a second. Randy stated he is asking the Commissioners to make Lutheran their primary provider and Parkview their secondary provider.

IN THE MATTER OF RE-PRECINCTING: County Clerk Debbie Beers came before the Commissioners for a request to re-precinct a parcel. The parcel would be moved from Union West to Union/Columbia City. It has been annexed and is now part of the City of Columbia City. Debbie presented the order to establish precincts to the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF REZONING SITE, INC. FROM AG TO RR: The Whitley County Advisory Plan Commission certified to the Commissioners a favorable recommendation to rezone the Site, Inc. The petition filed by Site, Inc. is to amend the zoning classification from "AG" Agricultural District to "RR" Rural Residential District for the unplatted remaining area of Lincoln Pointe. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the rezoning by Ordinance 2017-07, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented a Railroad Crossings grant to the Commissioners which is to improve pavements markings and signage at all of the County's railroad crossings. The Highway Department is requesting \$11,795.00 from the grant and Brandon has reviewed the grant and quotes provided for all of the railroad crossing locations. The only thing needed to submit the grant is the Chairman's signature. This is a reimbursement grant, so after the funds are spent the State will reimburse the County and the County has 18 months to spend the funds after the grant is awarded. Commissioner Amber made a motion to apply for the grant and for the Chairman to sign the grant, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Brandon informed the Commissioners that July 11, 2017 he submitted the Community Crossings grant to the State and the Highway Department is 20% complete with their 100 miles of road improvement plan.

IN THE MATTER OF STAR INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR THE COUNTY: Leslee Derbeck from STAR Insurance informed the Commissioners that the STAR Insurance policy for health insurance was a favorable renewal for the County. The plan would remain the same with no changes. Due to the health insurance being a favorable renewal, the rate increase for the plan would only be a 1.67% increase. STAR is recommending that the County potentially begin using telemedicine which would save a trip to the Emergency Room or a Doctor visit for employees. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the signing of the health insurance contract through STAR insurance and the County employee's deductions will remain the same and the County will absorb the 1.67% increase, seconded by Western and passed with 3/0 vote.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the July 3, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote with Amber abstaining. The Commissioner's reviewed the payroll claims. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from July 3, 2017 through July 17, 2017 were reviewed by the Commissioners. A motion to approve the claims was made by Commissioner Amber, seconded by Commissioner Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR: County Coordinator Pamela Smith presented two requests to use County facilities to the Commissioners. The first request was from Three Rivers Running Company for the Veterans Marathon on Saturday, November 11, 2017 from 8AM to 2PM. They would need to utilize the Courthouse Lawn and they will need electricity hookup at the gazebo. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second request was from Brandi Nicely for a wedding on July 29, 2017 at 3:30 PM for a 30 minute ceremony. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Scott Wagner from the Health Department reported to the Commissioners that an incident occurred on Friday where a well was drilled for a new home illegally. This same incident in a different location happened in 2009 and the Commissioners made the decision to fine the responsible party and make them re-drill the well in the proper location. The fine is \$500 for the first offense and Scott did contact the homeowner and the company drilled the well in a different area then where Scott flagged the well to be placed. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table this matter until the next Commissioner meeting until Scott returns with the information needed, seconded by Western with discussion. Commissioner Western asked if a new well is being drilled and they have not started drilling a new well in the approved location at this time. The motion passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the panic buttons at the Government Center, the County dispatch is notified that the panic button was pressed but it does not inform them of the location where the button was pressed. Officers do not know where to go when the button is pressed. There is a need for a third party monitoring system so that each individual panic button will be identified if something happens. The cost of the program setup fee is \$395.00 and it is a \$30.00 per month fee after that. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the program for the panic buttons in the Government Center, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber spoke about the Regional Sewer District and they are still working to establish a board for the district. There have been community meetings that the public has been able to attend to become informed on the Regional Sewer District. Commissioner Amber also gave an update on the Safety Committee meeting that took place on Friday, July 14th. There was discussion on putting a policy into place to keep the inspectors that go to individual's homes or sites and feel threatened by the owner of the property. Commissioner Schrumpf presented a request to the other Commissioners for the County to have insurance on reserve Sheriff Deputies. The insurance would be \$130.00 per person and the County has 10 reserve Sheriff Deputies as of today. Commissioner Western made a motion to insure the reserve Sheriff Deputies for \$130.00 per person, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

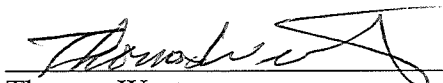
IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented one right-of-way permit request for fiber optic to be placed along Lincolnway East from 300 East to 500 East and down 500 East across 30 to Coesse School. This is being installed for the schools only. Brandon has given his approval on the permit request and the Drainage Board approved it for all drain crossings. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

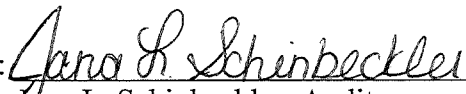
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schrumpf, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


Thomas Western

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor