

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

October 2, 2017

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, October 2, 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 Attorney Matt Shipman, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Hamilton, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Linda Thomson from the Post and Mail, Rita Harness, Tyler Roebuck from IN Whitley County, Janelle Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department, Judy Richards, Thorncreek Township Trustee Gene Heckman, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Sheriff Marcus Gatton and Joan Null.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Matt Shipman stated that he does not have a lot to report at this time other than the railroad crossing grant that Brandon will present to the Commissioners. In regard to the tax sale, the County received a verified objection to the tax sale. Matt stated that under a certain State IC Code, the property should be removed from the tax sale per that statute. County Treasurer Laurell Hodges asked what IC Code states that the property can be removed from the tax sale. Attorney Shipman stated that it was recently added and it reads a Judge can remove a property from a tax sale if the parcel has hazardous conditions. Attorney Shipman was going to inform the Judge that there were no objections to this verified objection to tax sale but if there is, he will have someone attend the hearing.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 911 DIRECTOR PAY: Sheriff Marcus Gatton made a presentation to the Commissioners in regard to the E911 Director pay. The presentation compared Whitley County's E911 Director wages to other Counties that have the same population. Some examples, Putnam County pays \$10,169.00 more than the Whitley County wage and they also have an E911 supervisor with the two jobs. Lagrange County paid \$34,660.00 more for the same job duties in 2016. The amount of the wage increase Sheriff Gatton is requesting is \$10,017.00. With this increase, there is an additional amount that will be paid for Medicare, FICA and PERF. The additional amount for Medicare, FICA and PERF to the County with the wage increase is \$1,121.90 for an overall increase of \$11,905.19. This is still less than hiring another individual to be the E911 Director. One of the points Commissioner Western made is there are two employees in several Counties for this position that we only have one employee for. Commissioner Amber made a motion to a favorable pass to Council for the additional amount of the wage and benefits of \$11,905.19, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY FUNDING UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Commissioners that we did get the award for the Community Crossings grant for our project. The project was selected for the grant and we can potentially receive \$670,000.00 of additional funding to be used towards asphalt for the chip and seal projects. There is a meeting at INDOT in Fort Wayne on October 17th where they will explain the next steps for the grant. Some of the equipment he hopes to purchase for the Highway Department in the next year is some tools, dump truck, a box broom for the skid loader and another tractor and mower. Brandon stated that he asked for an additional truck driver for the 2018 budget and it did not get approved. He will ask for another truck driver at the beginning of the year again. Brandon informed the Commissioners that the Highway is asking for approval of another grant for railroad crossing safety improvements. Once paperwork is approved for this grant, it is a reimbursable grant. The County will get reimbursed for all new railroad crossings signs and pavement markings. The Indiana Department of Transportation has awarded Whitley County \$11,795.00 for this railroad crossings safety improvements grant. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the agreement for this grant and for Schrumpf to sign the agreement, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 4/2 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: The Commissioners reviewed the 4/2 holiday schedule for 2018. The only change from the normal holiday schedule is Columbus Day on October 8, 2018 was removed and Sunday, April 1, 2018 for Easter Sunday was added. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the 4/2 holiday schedule for 2018, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT REQUESTS: Frontier Communications submitted a right-of-way permit to the Commissioners. The request was for permission to bury the necessary cable, pedestals

and attachments under East Anderson Road. Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester has reviewed the request and given his approval. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

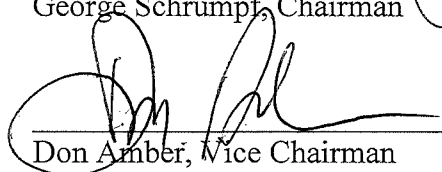
IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the September 18, 2017 regular meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction. Under In the Matter of the Martin Riley Jail Chiller Project Bid Award, it reads, "Commissioner Amber stated the," and it should read "Commissioner Amber stated that." With this correction, Commissioner Western seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor. 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 September 18, 2017 through October 2, 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.

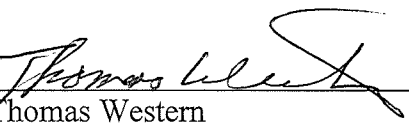
IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Hamilton informed the Commissioners that the press release for the tax sale has been completed. The Tax Sale will be on Monday, October 16, 2017 at 10:00 AM. Tamela then presented the Plan Supervisor Agreement for Unified in regard to the County's medical insurance. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the Unified Plan Supervisor Agreement, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

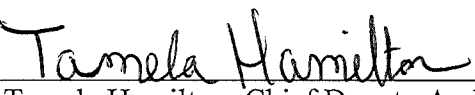
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 1:50 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schrumpf, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


Thomas Western

Attest: 
Tamela Hamilton, Chief Deputy Auditor