

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

October 16, 2017

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, October 16, 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, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant, David Raypole, Linda Thomson from the Post & Mail, Tyler Roebuck from IN Whitley County, Joe Lopez from Adlock Farms, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, County Recorder April Whetstone, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Jenny Stephenson from Planning and Building, Chip Stephenson from the Columbia City Police Department, Pam Coleman from the Association of Indiana Counties, Anneida Maillho from SRI Incorporated, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Council Chairman John Barrett, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Sonya Emerick, Joan Null, Debra Darr from Council on Aging and Becky Salaway from Council on Aging.

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 any information at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF THE AIC SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION: Pam Coleman and Anneida Maillho came to present an AIC scholarship to a student from Whitley County. The Association of Indiana Counties gives out four scholarships each year of \$500.00 each. SRI Incorporated sponsors the scholarships that are given. The winner of one of the scholarships is Thomas Stephenson and Thomas was not able to be present so the scholarship was received by his parents, Jenny and Chip Stephenson.

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE WHITLEY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT: The Whitley County Water and Regional Sewer District is almost ready to send all of the paperwork to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for a charter for the Regional Sewer District. Once the charter is given, the Commissioners no longer have anything to do with the district. It will become the responsibility of the Whitley County Water and Regional Sewer District Board. To finish the packet for the charter, the Commissioners need to sign a resolution to send along with the packet. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-13 for the Regional Sewer District, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CARDINAL ACRES PLAT: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented the Cardinal Acres plat to the Commissioners. This is a two lot plat that the Plan Commission approved at their September meeting. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the plat, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester reported to the Commissioners that the project for the roundabout on County Road 800 East has the bid proposals submitted. E & B Paving Inc. gave the lowest bid proposal and Allen County has started to clear some trees around the area where the roundabout will be located. Brandon stated that in regard to the bids, they have not released the Engineer's estimate yet. The awarding of the bid will be done by Allen County. In regard to bridge inspections, Brandon presented an LPA Consulting contract for County bridge inspections to the Commissioners. Attorney Matt Shipman has reviewed it and given his approval. As of this morning, INDOT has issued a new revision of the contract but Brandon is still asking the Commissioners to sign the contract today. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve and sign the LPA Consulting contract for County bridge inspections, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Brandon would like to move the annual bids for the Highway Department to January. The Commissioners would receive and open the bids by the first meeting and award the bids the second meeting in January. The Commissioners gave their approval to change the dates to January for bids. Brandon is working on revising the Highway specifications because there are some things with subdivisions that overlap and possibly conflict with other County subdivision ordinances. The Drainage Board approved the verbiage for an ordinance in regard to fees and fines for crossing or encroaching on County regulated drains. The Fee Committee will need to meet to approve the fees and then it will need to be brought before the Commissioners for approval. Brandon spoke with a couple of the Commissioners regarding the issue at 500 North and 450 East and 450 East south

bound traffic stops. Brandon stated that a yield sign needs to be placed in the intersection so that the traffic turning left has to yield. He will write up an ordinance to place a yield sign at the intersection for the Commissioners to approve and he will have Attorney Matt Shipman review the ordinance before he brings it before the Commissioners. The Highway Department is currently berming, ditching, cutting brush, installing culverts, patching, etc. Brandon has also been working on a capital improvement list which includes new roofing, siding, signs, adding parking, etc. In regard to transportation and planning for the winter months, the Commissioners asked Brandon to contact Amy Biggs and meet with each of the schools this year again to have a plan in place.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING GRANT APPROVAL: Debra Darr from Council on Aging presented the Whitley County Commissioners 2018 Operating Assistance grant for Council on Aging. The Office of Transit has already approved the grant and the grant agreement needs reviewed and signed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT REQUESTS: The first right-of-way permit request was from Frontier. They need to bury the necessary cable, pedestals and attachments under County Road 700 North. They will need to bore 30 feet under County Road 700 North. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the Frontier right-of-way permit request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second right-of-way permit request was from NIPSCO. The work will take place on County Road 800 East and it is to retire a gas service. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the NIPSCO right-of-way permit request, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.


IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the October 2, 2017 regular meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. 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 October 2, 2017 through October 16, 2017 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber stated that the Star Insurance claim should have had a breakdown on the invoice of what portion was the County's and what portion was the Solid Waste's. The County has paid the entire claim but now the Auditor's Office needs to invoice Jorell at Solid Waste for his portion. A motion to approve the accounts payable claims was made by Commissioner Amber, seconded by Commissioner Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

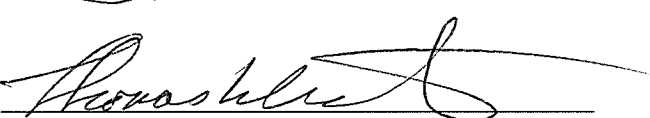
IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Schrumpf reported that Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant has reviewed the five year facility maintenance plan and he has provided copies for the Commissioners to review. Mark Sturtevant also shared some concerns with Commissioner Schrumpf about the aquariums that different departments/offices have throughout the County. Schrumpf stated that he would speak with the insurance company with the concerns about the aquariums and asked the Commissioners to share their thoughts at the next meeting.


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: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor