

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 2, 2018

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 2, 2018 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 Schrupf, Vice Chairman Don Amber and Commissioner Thomas Western. Others in attendance were Sam Ladowski from Bloom Gates Shipman and Whiteleather, County Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Nina Rodocker, Barbara Hohenstein, Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office, Joan Null, Stanley Crum, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester and Emily Studebaker.

Chairman Schrupf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EXTENSION UPDATE: Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office gave an update to the Commissioners. She went over all of their programs such as NEPAC (Northeast Purdue Agricultural Center) Field Day, Junior Leaders, 4-H Volunteers, Extension Homemakers, PARP (Pesticide Applicator Recertification Program), Nutrition Education, Captain Cash, ServSafe and Master Gardeners. In 2017 Swine was the largest 4-H project with 179 youth participating. There were 32 youth that tried out the new projects in 2017 of Aquatic Science, BBQ Grilling, Recycling and shooting sports. Currently, 806 youth are enrolled in the Whitley County 4-H program so far for 2018. The program has 149 adult volunteers for 2018 as well. Cindy informed the Commissioners that they had many learning events in 2017. They had a total of 6,406 direct contacts last year and 770 consultations along with providing the public with 140 news releases.

IN THE MATTER OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: The first right-of-way permit request was from Tri-Star Business Inc. They are putting in an underground water line on Stalf Road for the 2852 E Stalf Road residence. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve as long as the homeowners sign a hold harmless agreement, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second right-of-way permit request was from Century Link for County Road N 550 W and it is to place a cable and bore under the road to place a cable directly to the customer's barn. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The third request was from Wilcoxson Excavating LLC on County Road 675 West to replace an existing tile. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The last request was from More Family Farms on County Road 400 East. The work being done is for drainage improvement purposes. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the March 19, 2018 regular meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners 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 March 19, 2018 through April 2, 2018 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

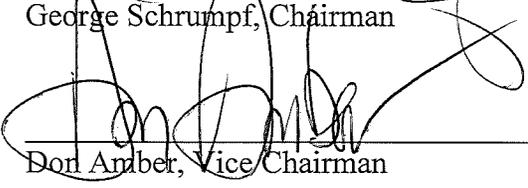
IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester stated that he has been looking into salt barn storage options. He is leaning towards a timber structure but it will be more expensive than the other options. He would like the Commissioners and Council's consensus to move forward with looking into options for the timber structure. Once he has the timber structure built, he would like to start purchasing salt in July or August and get the amount they need for the entire winter season. Brandon is also requesting the Commissioner's support and favorable pass to Council for an additional employee. This employee would help with drainage matters and work with Mike from the Engineer's Office. He has reviewed their revenues and budget for 2018 and they can afford to add an additional employee. Commissioner Amber made a favorable pass to Council for the new employee titled Drainage Project Assistant, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. He informed the Commissioners that he is moving forward with the next phase of the Community Crossings grant. There has not been a call for projects yet but Brandon has a plan in mind when they do. In regard to the Liberty Mills project with Allen County, Brandon did find a signed contract and he will be taking the invoice to Council to find out where it needs to be paid from and potentially asking for an additional appropriation. Craig Wagner put in a request to the Commissioners for one of them to attend a public meeting for the Public Law 104. Commissioner Amber stated he will attend if he can. EGov contacted Commissioner Schrupf and would like to update the County website. The cost to update and rework the website would be \$8,750.00.

REQUESTS TO USE COUNTY FACILITIES: Commissioner Schruppf presented requests to use County facilities to the Commissioners. The first request was from U.S. Army recruiting to set up a table and hand out fliers on the Courthouse lawn and sidewalk on April 20, 2018. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Whitley County Farmer's Market put in a request to use the Courthouse square from May 12, 2018 through October 27, 2018 every Saturday. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The next request was from the Whitley County Ministerial Association to use the gazebo and Courthouse square for the National Day of Prayer on May 3, 2018 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The National Day of Prayer Committee put in a request to use the Courthouse grounds and gazebo on May 3, 2018 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Columbia City Main Street Association put in two requests to use County facilities. The first was for a movie on the square on June 1, 2018 and 7:30 PM is setup and the showing is from 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request from the Columbia City Main Street Association was for a movie on the square as well. It will take place on September 7, 2018 and setup is at 5:30 PM and the showing is from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

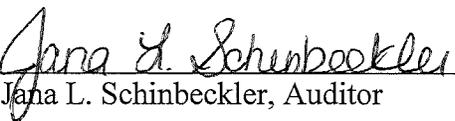
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schruppf adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schruppf, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


Thomas Western

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor