

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 18, 2018

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, June 18, 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 Schrumpf, Vice Chairman Don Amber and Commissioner Thomas Western. Others in attendance were County Attorney Matt Shipman, County Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator/HR Director Angela Campbell, Debra Darr from Whitley County Council on Aging, Economic Development Corporation President Jon Myers, Mackenzie DeGroot from the Post and Mail, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Lana Beregszazi from BCS Management, Stanley Crum from Wood Land Lakes, Joan Null, Sonya Emerick and Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: County Attorney Matt Shipman reported to the Commissioners that Canda Goldwood would like to lease the parking lot that the County owns because she heard back from her insurance company and they approved it. He hopes to have the agreement at the Commissioners next meeting for them to review and approve it. Matt also presented his contract for 2018 to the Commissioners for their review and approval. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Attorney Shipman's contract for 2018, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PRELIMINARY FINDING OF APPARENT RIGHT-OF-WAY ALONG RABER ROAD AND 300 SOUTH, BETWEEN CITY LIMITS AND 600 EAST & PLAT APPROVALS: Planning Director Nathan Bilger stated he received a new letter of credit for Triple R Development, which is Legacy Preserve on State Road 14. The previous letter of credit for the remaining items in their development expired in November of 2016 and the Planning Department is holding building permits contingent on this letter of credit. Due to past performance issues, Nathan was concerned with accepting another letter of credit and this proposed letter of credit has a five year expiration date. The amount and the timeframe has not changed, it is just the time period for the letter of credit. Commissioner Amber made a motion to accept the five year letter of credit. After some discussion with Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Commissioner Amber withdrew his motion. Commissioner Amber made another motion to approve the letter of credit provided that they gives the action plan to Brandon and Nathan by August 1, 2018 and that no building permits be issued until we have the action plan approved. Commissioner Western seconded the motion and motion passed with all in favor. Nathan then discussed the preliminary findings for the rights-of-way along 300 South and Raber Road. He gave the Commissioners a packet for their reference showing how the survey indicates the usage of the rights-of-way on 300 South between 600 East and Raber Road and Raber Road between 300 South and the City limits. This is related to the SDI sewer project and it allows a 40 foot right-of-way for County purposes. The next step if the Commissioners approve this today, would be a public hearing at the next meeting and then an ordinance adoption. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the apparent right-of-way for Raber Road between the Columbia City Limits and County Road 300 South and between County Road 300 South between Raber Road and County Road 600 East. They are to be 40 foot in width or 20 foot on each side. Commissioner Western seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 3/0 vote. Nathan then presented two plat approvals to the Commissioners for consideration. The first plat was Rail Connect Business Park, the second subdivision of Lot #1 which was approved by the Plan Commission at their meeting. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the Rail Connect Business Park plat, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second plat is for Sheckler Acres and the Plan Commission approved this plat as well. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the Sheckler Acres plat, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANNUAL EDC REPORT: Economic Development Corporation President Jon Myers gave an update to the Commissioners for the EDC. Jon reported that the unemployment rate is the lowest it has been in approximately forty years. It is around 2.5% and even though it seems like a good thing for the county, businesses in Whitley County are actually having trouble finding employees because the unemployment rate is so low. Our population growth is higher than the national average and is one of the highest rates in Northeast Indiana. Jon stated that they have also seen a substantial increase for Whitley County when it comes to income tax revenues. This would include the Local Option Incomes Taxes such as CEDIT, Public Safety and Certified Shares. Due to these statistics, the EDC is focusing more on getting training incentives for companies rather than tax abatements. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that they appreciate the Economic Development Corporation and all they have done for the County.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 5311 GRANT APPROVAL: Debra Darr from Whitley County Council on Aging presented the Council on Aging's grant request to the Commissioners. This is for their normal grant funding and they are requesting to purchase two new vans. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-02 for the grant, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner then made another motion to the Chairman to sign the grant, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: The first right-of-way permit request was from Indiana Fiber Network along East Park 30 Drive for the installation of duct by directional boring for fiber with locate wire. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request was also from Indiana Fiber Network along Lincolnway for the installation of duct by directional boring also for fiber with locate wire. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The last request was also from Indiana Fiber Network for work along 4055 East Park 30 Drive to install duct by directional boring for fiber with locate wire. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR/HR DIRECTOR: County Coordinator/HR Director Angela Campbell informed the Commissioners that she had a meeting about the new County website and it will take around five months to get it completed. She stated that open enrollment for insurance is closed and she will be getting a list from STAR of all the changes. Angela also informed the Commissioners that the Safety Committee met and there are three grant applications being submitted for safety equipment for the County.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: County Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester gave an update to the Commissioners on operations. The Highway Department has completed all of the berming work on all of the roads that are going to be chip sealed this year. This is done because the edge of the road becomes higher than the edge of the pavement and holds water which breaks down the roads. They are also replacing culverts and ditching along with reseeding the areas they have worked on. The Highway employees have been mowing and are almost completely around the entire County for the first time this summer. There was some activity out in Union and Smith townships that damaged County roads and they have to cut the soft spots out. Brandon informed the Commissioners that calcium chloride that they place in front of homes on gravel roads has been delivered. The hot mix wedge and leveled roads this year will be Airport Road and 250 West. They are also concentrating on the roads that are going to be chip sealed this year and they are doing cold mix patching as needed. The chip sealing of roads will begin July 9, 2018 depending on the weather. The Highway Department also received a grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation for railroad safety improvements. INDOT awarded the materials but the Highway Department had to do the labor work. Most of the project is complete except for the roads that are being chip sealed this year because they do not want to cover fresh paint. In regard to the salt storage barn bid, Brandon made a recommendation to the Commissioners to accept the bid. Commissioner Western made a motion to accept the bid from American Timber Bridge in the amount of \$164,200, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. Brandon did go before the Columbia City Board of Zoning appeals and request a special exception for this structure and they granted the request. Brandon stated that he is hoping to have construction bids for the building the second meeting in July for the Commissioners. He also received a quote from Wigent Excavating to relocate a sewer line. Brandon also presented drafts of his 2019 budgets to the Commissioners.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the June 4, 2018 regular meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Western 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 June 4, 2018 through June 18, 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.

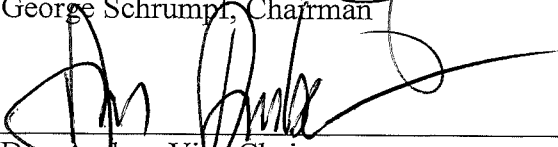
IN OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Schrumpf stated that the County was contacted by someone in Indianapolis from the Public Policy Institute and they asked for a data release and requested that the Commissioners waive any fees associated with the data release. Huntington and Noble Counties did go ahead and give them the data along with waiving the fees. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the data release request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber rescinded his motion to make a new motion to include the waiver of fees. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the GIS data release request and to agree to waive the fees, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Stanley Crum from Wood Land Lakes gave an update to the Commissioners and copies of the minutes from Wood Land Lakes meetings. Commissioner Amber stated that a County employee was in an accident head on and there was not any life threatening injuries. Commissioner Amber was able to get a great deal on a new vehicle for \$19,200.00 and the

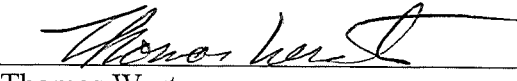
County was able to get \$8,600.00 from the insurance company so the vehicle only cost the County out of pocket \$10,200.00. In regard to the meeting room policy for public use, there were some issues regarding whether the public would be allowed to use the rooms and if they would be able to be used after hours. After discussion, Commissioner Amber made a motion to table the room policy, seconded by Western and passed 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 3:10 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schrumpf, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


Thomas Western

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

