

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 5, 2019

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, August 5, 2019 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 Vice Chairman Thomas Western. Others in attendance were Attorney Matt Shipman, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Commissioner's Assistant Jennifer Shinabery, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Gary Lamle, Theresa Green, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Sonya Emerick, Sandra Slone from the Whitley County Literacy Council and Denita Patrick.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Matt Shipman stated that he has the first draft of the donation agreement with Parkview for the property of Branch Court. He also reviewed an ordinance for the EDC, which is to certify that Whitley County is a "broadband ready" community. Matt stated that he will wait until the next meeting to have Jon present it to the Commissioners for approval. In regard to postage machines for the County, the Commissioners entered into an agreement with Impac and then after the County entered the contract, our representative from Impac sent an addendum. The addendum should have been part of the original contract and it results in being a \$70 issue. The addendum stated that the County was allowed 1,000 E Certifies per year and then if we go over, we will be charged. Historically, the County has used more than 1,000 E certifies per year. In order to fix this, Chuck from Impac stated that if the Commissioners signed the addendum, the company would give us a \$70 credit on our bill to cover what we go over. Matt stated that even with the addendum, the contract is still cheaper than with Pitney Bowes. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the addendum, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE BID OPENING FOR JUNK & TRASH: Scott Wagner from the Health Department stated that the County has been involved with a housing issue on 350 west for quite some time. Scott has gone to court and received an order to clean the property and he received one bid. Scott has also asked Orkin to visit the home to check for pests, which the agreement was signed on July 11th and they did not go to the property until the 22nd. The home has been unoccupied for years and the only way the home can be demolished is if it is a threat to the public or if it is infested with rats. That is why Scott hired Orkin to visit the property to see if it was infested with rats. Scott said he could give the Commissioners a report before their next meeting but he is not able to confirm at this time that there are certainly rats infesting the home. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table until the next meeting, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester gave an update on the Community Crossings grant and informed the Commissioners that Phend & Brown has completed their work at Tri Lakes and has moved on to Blue Lake. Brandon stated that they are still a few weeks out on starting Phase II of the project. The 2019 chip seal operations are close to being completed. There were 28 miles on the plan and the department has about 5 miles of that to go. Brandon presented his equipment plan to the Commissioners for the next five years. He would like to wait until next year to purchase two new single axle trucks and encumber the funds for 2020 that are unused in 2019. Brandon also gave the County Attorney a draft ordinance for River Road to put a sign up that states "No Trucks Allowed". Brandon then informed the Commissioners that he received the memorandum of understanding from the City for the road repairs surrounding the SDI sewer project. The City did approve the memorandum of understanding and the department is waiting on a final invoice for material before they send an invoice to the City for reimbursement.

IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: Brandon presented eight right-of-way permits to the Commissioners. The first permit request was from Aqua Indiana to bore via directional drilling method under county road 800 East into Allen County and on the north side of the roundabout to install a 3" low pressure sanitary sewer force main. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The next permit was submitted by the Town of Churubusco. They are requesting to place new 8" PVC gravity sanitary sewer along the north side of County Road 375 north. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/1 vote with Amber voting against. Nipsco also requested approval of a permit for county road 800 east to repair a leak on a 20" transmission gas line. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Nipsco had another right-of-way permit request to extend a 3" gas main to provide gas service to a new building on Rail Connect Drive. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The last four were from Precision Utilities Group. The first was to bore in the right-of-way on 700 east to provide service to a new customer. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request was to bore under 200 west to also provide service to a new customer. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The third request was to bore under 400 south to also provide service to a new customer. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The last request was to bore under 700 east to repair a damaged line to fix the service for a customer at 4717 S 700 E. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: After reviewing the payroll claims, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from July 15, 2019 through August 5, 2019 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. The minutes from the July 15, 2019 meeting were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Mary Hartman and Sandra Slone from the Whitley County Literacy Council came before the Commissioners to request some office space that is needed by them to perform their daily tasks and to keep their files. They currently have two small offices and work space at the Extension Office but will soon be losing their space once the Department of Child Services takes over the building. The purpose of the Literacy Council is to tutor adults who are not able to read or do not have a GED. They usually have about 6 to 12 students at a time and they meet the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. Mary stated that there is not any office space available at the Peabody Library for the Literacy Council and that is why they have come before the Commissioners to request space. The Commissioners stated that they would look into it and see what they could do for them. In regard to the Granite Ridge Builders proposed plan on 800 East, there were some concerned citizens on whether or not that has been approved. Commissioner Amber stated that it has not been brought back to the Commissioners and it has been tabled until the Plan Commission reviews it again with changes made.

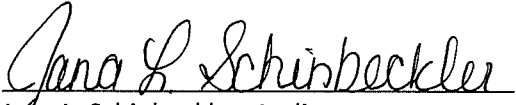
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 1:50 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schrumpf, Chairman


Thomas Western, Vice Chairman


Don Amber, Commissioner

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor