

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

October 5, 2020

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, October 5, 2020 at 1:00 PM in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Don Amber, Vice Chairman Thomas Western and Commissioner George Schrumpf. Others in attendance were Attorney Matt Shipman, HR Director/Coordinator Jennifer Shinabery, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Judge Fahl, Joan Null, Becky Salaway from Whitley County Council on Aging, Stanley Crum from Wood Land Lakes, County Assessor Kim Erdly, Lance Rogers, Sonya Emerick, Sean Martin from the Sheriff's Department, Lora Enyeart from Superior Court, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Bill Etzler from Engineering Resources, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library and Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester.

Chairman Amber opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Shipman informed the Commissioners that he has reviewed the Mercury Wireless agreement and it is ready for their approval. The majority of the County will be covered by this agreement for internet. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the Mercury Wireless agreement and to allow the Chairman to sign, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF RECOGNITION FOR JUDGE FAHL: The Commissioners recognized Judge Fahl as being the first Indiana National Guard appointed Military Judge. Military Judges play many roles for service members. They preside in trials, interpret the law, assess the evidence presented and control how hearings and trials unfold in their court rooms. Commissioner Amber thanked Judge Fahl for his service and stated that the Commissioners are extremely proud of Judge Fahl.

IN THE MATTER OF THE AGREEMENT FOR AN INCOME SURVEY FOR OCRA: Attorney Shipman presented an agreement to the Commissioners for approval regarding an income survey for Coesse for the Regional Sewer District. This cost of this income survey will be reimbursed by the Regional Sewer District once they begin receiving income. The fee for services for this agreement is \$6,000. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve and allow the Chairman to sign, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH & JEAN DAY FUNDRAISER: Denice Spencer from the Prosecutor's Office is requesting to do Jean Fridays during the month of October for a fundraiser. Employees can pay \$1 to wear jeans each Friday and the funds go towards Domestic Violence awareness. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PLAT APPROVAL: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented two plats to the Commissioners for approval. The first plat was a one lot replat for Nice Estates and they are selling the remainder. The Plan Commission did approve this replat request. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the replat, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second plat request was for Homestead Estates on Schuman Road, which is a one lot plat as well. The Highway Department has a small issue with this plat because the property only has one small area of road frontage. The Plan Commission has approved the plat with a driveway permit being approved. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the plat request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING VOUCHER APPROVAL: Becky Salaway from Whitley County Council on Aging informed the Commissioners that she did receive two of her new vans. The voucher she is requesting for approval is for two additional vans and the amount is much higher due to a different chassis and prices increasing. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the voucher for \$89,920 and for the Chair to sign, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Commissioners that the main projects of the Community Crossings projects are complete. Brandon stated that he will bring the bid notice information for the annual bids for approval to the next Commissioner meeting. The bid opening will take place at 10:30 on December 7, 2020. Brandon reported that the new trucks are in service and depending on what the DLGF approves for the Highway Department budget, he will see what equipment can be purchased in 2021.

IN THE MATTER OF EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: The Commissioners recognized all employees with over 20 years of service with an anniversary date in October. The employees were: Sean Martin – 24 years, Scott Wagner – 24 years, Lora Enyeart – 23 years and Troy Wolf – 26 years.

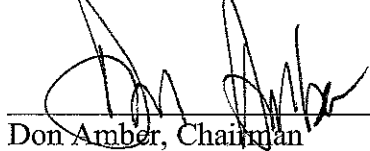
IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Chairman Amber stated that he has reviewed all payroll and accounts payable claims. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from September 21, 2020 through October 5, 2020 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners also reviewed the September 21, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners also amended the July 20, 2020 meeting minutes to reflect that they approved two to three hours per employee per year to participate in wellness related activities. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the amended July 20, 2020 minutes, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: There were five right-of-way permits presented to the Commissioners for approval. The first request was from Northeastern REMC to upgrade existing faulty facilities in the area of Coffeetree Lane. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second request was also from Northeastern REMC to provide power to the new section of Lincoln Point subdivision. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The third request was from BSM Groups along East Lakewood Drive to place a UG duct placement by directional bore. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. The fourth request was from BSM Groups as well and this was for East Commerce Drive to place fiber along with the installation of one IFN hand hole and a riser. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The last request was from BSM Groups for Lincolnway Road to install fiber and one hand hole along with riser core building and seal. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: The Commissioners reviewed an amended holiday schedule for 2021 to add New Year's Eve. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the 2021 holiday schedule, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Amber adjourned the meeting at 2:15 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




Don Amber, Chairman



Thomas Western, Vice Chairman

George Schrumpf, Commissioner

Attest: 
Jara L. Schinbeckler, Auditor