

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

February 2, 2021

The Whitley County Council met in special session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chair Thor Hodges, Vice Chair Kim Wheeler, Timothy Kumfer, Thomas Warner, James Argerbright, Joan Western and John Barrett. Others in attendance were Commissioner George Schrumpf, Commissioner Theresa Green, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Sheriff Gatton, Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester and Chelsie David from the Post and Mail.

Chair Hodges called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROBATION GRANT SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT & ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION:

Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter was present to request a salary ordinance amendments and additional appropriations for her Probation Officer and Field Crew Officer that are grant funded. The grant awarded for 2021 from the State did not cover the increases for the positions. The salary ordinance amendments and additional appropriation requests were:

Salary Ordinance Amendments:

County General:		Bi-Weekly Amount	Annual Amount
1000.11318.000.0143	Field Crew Officer	\$52.92	\$1,376.00
1000.11508.000.0143	Probation Officer	\$56.23	\$1,462.00

Probation Officer/CC Grant:

9311.11318.000.0235	Field Crew Officer	\$1,618.15	\$42,072.00
9311.11508.000.0235	Probation Officer	\$1,875.00	\$48,750.00

Additional Appropriations:

County General:		Additional Amount
1000.11318.000.0143	Field Crew Officer	\$1,376.00
1000.11508.000.0143	Probation Officer	\$1,462.00
1000.17100.000.0143	FICA & Medicare	\$681.54

Council member Kumfer made a motion to approve the Probation salary ordinance amendments and additional appropriation requests, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 7/0 vote.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS & ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Community Corrections Director Paula Worden was present to request a salary ordinance amendments and additional appropriations for her Pretrial Services Coordinator and Pretrial Assistant. The grant awarded for 2021 from the State did not cover the increases for the positions. The salary ordinance amendments and additional appropriation requests were:

Salary Ordinance Amendments:

Pretrial Grant:		Bi-Weekly Amount	Annual Amount
9104.11217.000.9104	Pretrial Svcs Coordinator	\$70.27	\$1,827.00
9104.11325.000.9104	Pretrial Assistant	\$1,352.00	\$35,153.00

Additional Appropriations:

Pretrial Grant:		Additional Amount
9104.11217.000.9104	Pretrial Svcs Coordinator	\$1,827.00

Council member Argerbright made a motion to approve the Community Corrections salary ordinance amendments and additional appropriation request, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Scott Wagner from the Health Department was present to request a salary ordinance amendment for the Health Educator in their department. The salary ordinance stated that part of her salary was to be paid out of Fund 1168 Local Health Maintenance, but it needs to be paid out of Fund 1206 Tobacco Settlement.

Salary Ordinance Amendment:

Tobacco Settlement:		Bi-Weekly Amount	Annual Amount
1206.11617.000.0210	Health Educator	\$580.12	\$15,083

Council member Warner made a motion to allow the salary ordinance amendment for the Health Department, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote.

TEMPORARY PART TIME POSITION FOR COVID CLINICS: Scott Wagner from the Health Department informed the Council that several years ago the Commissioners excluded several different individuals/groups for health insurance eligibility. The WIC Director was one of the individuals that they excluded at the time. The current WIC Director works 35 hours per week and is considered full time. The State also reimburses the cost of health insurance 100% because the WIC program is grant funded. Scott is asking that the WIC Director be eligible for health insurance since there is no cost to the County. Council member Barrett made a motion to allow the WIC Director to be eligible for health insurance, seconded by Argerbriht and carried with a 7/0 vote. Scott also requested a temporary part time position to assist with the vaccine clinics the Health Department is holding each week. The part time person will be the one making the phone calls to schedule appointments. This person will work 29.5 or less hours each week. Council member Kummer made a motion to approve the part time employee for the Health Department, seconded by Western and passed with a 7/0 vote. Scott also gave the Council a COVID update.

PENSION AGE STUDY: Sheriff Gatton was present to give the Council information regarding a study for early retirement at the Sheriff's Department. This started last year, and the Merit Board made their recommendations to the Council. There are several other departments that the retirement age is less than 55. The retirement qualifications now are age 55 and 20 years of service. The two scenarios the study covered was age 52 with 25 years of service or age 50 with at least 20 years of service. There is not a mandatory age for retirement.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester was present to request an additional appropriation.

Additional Appropriation:
Motor Vehicle Highway: 1176.23001.000.0176

Bituminous

Additional Amount
\$608,242.00

Brandon is requesting this additional appropriation because the Department of Local Government Finance cut his budget by \$608,242 for 2021 due to anticipating that he was going to spend his entire budget for 2020. The Department of Local Government Finance stated that since he did not spend his entire 2020 budget, this would be an allowable additional appropriation request. Council member Kummer made a motion to approve the Highway additional appropriation request, seconded by Warner and passed with a 7/0 vote. Brandon also gave the Council an update on purchasing new trucks for the Highway Department.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Schrumpt gave a report from the Commissioner Meeting:
- The Highway Department was awarded a safety grant from IPEP (Indiana Public Employer's Plan) in the amount of \$10,209.84. This is to purchase safety equipment for the Highway Department employees.
- The Commissioners and Attorney Shipman reviewed and approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Humane Society for 2021. The memorandum states that the County will pay the Humane Society up to \$25,000 for the year or \$108 per animal. Council member Kummer made a motion to approve the memorandum of understanding and allow the expenditure, seconded by Wheeler, and carried with a 7/0 vote.

- Commissioner Schrumpt informed the Council that there were some issues with the Century Link claims but they are working on getting those issues figured out. Commissioner Schrumpt believes we are being billed excessively from Century Link because we switched over to a VOIP system and are no longer using Century Link as much as we used to.
- Schrumpt informed the Council that there are radio issues with dispatch. They have discovered the issue, which is the tower that J & K owns is not tall enough to cover all radio frequencies. To increase the height of the tower, it is \$29,000. After the initial installation, it will be \$1.00 per foot per month for a total of \$300.00 per month.
- The Commissioners are working on creating a Broadband Committee to bring better internet to the County and to assist with receiving Federal grants for broadband.
- The Health Trust fund for the County's health insurance is still well above the average balance that is normally in the trust fund.

MINUTES: The Council reviewed the January 5, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Argerbriht and passed with a 7/0 vote.

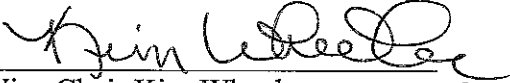
OTHER BUSINESS: Carlee LaRue from the Health Department was at the meeting to present the Drug Free Whitley County grant for 2021. The grant allows for \$13,333 for prevention and education, \$13,333 for treatment and intervention and \$11,911.75 for criminal justice services and \$7,756.00 for administrative work for a total of \$46,333.75. Carlee is requesting approval from the Council to show that they are in support of the grant. Council member Barrett made a motion to accept the grant, seconded by Warner and carried with a 7/0 vote. Council member Kummer informed the Council that the Personnel Committee met and will be bringing a request for change in salary for a Circuit Court employee next month. Regarding Region 3A, Council member Argerbriht stated

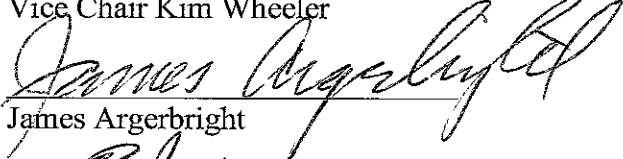
that he would attend the meetings this year and report back to Council. Council member Kumfer also brought up purchasing tablets for the Council packets instead of having paper copies each meeting. Kumfer made a motion to research what tablets or laptops would cost to purchase for the Council, seconded by Warner and carried with a 7/0 vote.

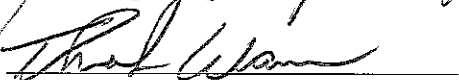
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Hodges adjourned the meeting at 9:10 AM.

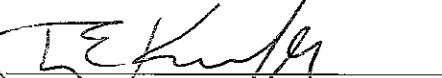
WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

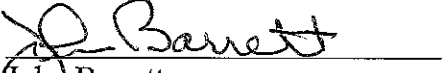

Chair Thor Hodges


Vice Chair Kim Wheeler


James Argerbright

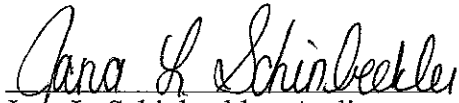

Thomas Warner


Timothy Kumfer


John Barrett


Joan Western

Attest:


Jara L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

