

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 18, 2022

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, February 18, 2022, at 1:00 PM in the Commissioner's Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chair Chad Banks, Vice Chair Theresa Green and Commissioner George Schrumpf. Others in attendance were Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Human Resources Director Jennifer Shinabery, County Highway Director Katy Fry, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Health Director Scott Wagner, Assessor Kim Erdly, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Jenny Stephenson, Dale Buuck from the Whitley County EDC, Rob Schuman and Sonya Emerick.

Chair Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Shipman stated that he has reviewed the agreements and contracts that are on the agenda and stated that all contracts and agreements are good.

SURVEYOR AGREEMENT & BRIDGE INSPECTION AMENDMENT: Jenny Stephenson from the Engineering office was present to ask the Commissioners sign two documents for the Engineering office. The first is an agreement with the County Surveyor Dane Drew and USI Consultants. The agreement is the designation of contracted engineer to perform certain functions of County Surveyor. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, seconded by Green, passing with a 3/0 vote. The second item was an amendment to the bridge inspection agreement. There was some verbiage that INDOT needed to have updated. Attorney Shipman stated that these changes are correct. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the request, with a second by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

MAILBOX POLICY: Commissioner Banks shared that he has been working with Katy Fry, Highway Director in regard to getting something in place to create consistency for how the County handles damaged mailboxes from snow removal/plowing. Attorney Shipman stated that the policy is a good idea for the County to create consistency in how we handle this. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the policy, with a second by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

REGIONAL ELECTED OFFICIALS' AGREEMENT: Commissioner Banks stated that he and Commissioner Green met with Edmond O'Neil with the Economic Growth Region 3 (WorkOne). The contract is for the County Commissioners to acknowledge that Region 3 is working within our County and offering assistance in helping individuals obtain jobs as well as helping employers if needed to fill open positions. Region 3 is all State funded, so there is no request for anything from the Commissioners. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Green and passing with a 3/0 vote.

PLAT APPROVAL: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented a plat for approval. Taintworth Farms on the Eel River plat is a 2-lot plat off 950 W. The Plan Commission approved this plat at their December meeting after a few changes were requested to be made. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the plat as presented, with a second by Green, passing with a 3/0 vote.

COMMERCIAL LEASE SPACE: Commissioner Banks stated that the Commissioners needed to sign a new lease agreement with Reiff Enterprises for 2022 for rental space. The amount of rent did not increase, this is the same lease agreement that is signed yearly with the dates changing. Commissioner Banks stated that seems how the agreement is technically with the Sheriff's Department he would like to see this come out of the Sheriff's Department budget for 2023 and moving forward. County Auditor Tiffany Deakins stated that she will reach out to the Sheriff's Department and let them know of the request of the Commissioners. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the request as presented, seconded by Schrumpf and passing with a 3/0 vote.

FACILITY REQUEST: There is one facility request from JoAnn Bird to use the Courthouse lawn November 11-12 for The Veterans Marathon. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the request, with a second by Schrumpf passing with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from February 8, 2022, through February 22, 2022, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Schrumpf checked the accounts payable claims and Green stated she reviewed the payroll claims and both had no concerns. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the accounts payable and payroll claims, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed minutes from the February 7, 2022, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

Commissioner Schrumpf stated that the Commissioners received the annual dues for the Mayors and Commissioners caucus in the amount of \$1,500.

Commissioner Green wanted to let the public know that the Commissioners are still working on the new jail for the County so that we can be compliant.

Commissioner Banks wanted to recognize Amy Biggs Whitley County's EMA Director seems how it is EMA appreciation week. The Commissioner would like to say what a great job that she has done for Whitley County and that she is a rockstar. Amy's communication during the last few weeks with the inclement weather was outstanding. Commissioner Banks also wanted to show respect for the family of Jeff Geiger that has just passed away. He was a pillar of the community with everything that he did for 4H and the community. The Commissioners condolences go out to Jeffs family.

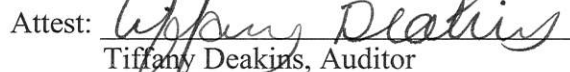
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:26 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chair Chad Banks


Vice Chair Theresa Green


Commissioner George Schrumpf

Attest: 
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor