

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 20, 2022

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, June 20, 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 Baysinger and Commissioner Shrumpf. Others in attendance were Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Hamilton-Tincher, Commissioners' Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, HR Director Jennifer Shinabery, Highway Director Katy Fry, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Chief Deputy Treasurer Denise Spencer, Coroner Scott Smith, Brent Bockelman from Planning & Building, Hayden Caster with E&B Paving, Brandon Bushee with Brooks Construction, Beth Johnson with VSI, Hartman with PPL, Justin Hartmann with Tree Services, Jake McDonald with Tree Services, Stephan LeBlanc with QDS, Sarah LeBlanc with QDS, Gregg Nelson with Tree Services, Bruce Thibodeau with Tree Services, Larry Burckhart from Phend & Brown Corp, Mike Stawford, and Sonya Emerick.

Chair Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**HIGHWAY DEPT BID OPENING FOR COMMUNITY CROSSINGS:** The Commissioners opened the 4 Highway Bids for Community Crossings. Niblock in the amount of \$1,090,348.00, Phend & Brown in the amount of \$1,320,724.00, First Brooks Construction in the amount of \$1,120,446.00, and E&B Paving in the amount of \$1,164,317.50. Commissioner Shrumpf made a motion to take the bids under advisement with the Highway Director, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote.

Commissioner Banks closed the Highway Bid opening for Community Crossings and moved into the regular agenda.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT:** Attorney Shipman stated that he had nothing to report.

**AMERICAN UNITED LIFE:** Commissioner Banks let the public know that American United Life will no longer allow for a fixed rate and has provided a few options. Banks expressed after reviewing the options he felt most comfortable with option 1 so that the employees who invest could continue doing so. Commissioner Baysinger explained the options and made a motion to go with option 1. Commissioner Baysinger amended her motion to go with option 1A, seconded by Shrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**CORONER VEHICLE REQUEST:** Coroner Scott Smith was present to request a new vehicle for the Coroner's Office to transport for autopsies as well as their equipment. He stated that his father did the transporting for free since the 1960's but is no longer able to do so. We have been using transportation companies, but they are unable to pick up the bodies in a timely fashion and they are left waiting for hours. Smith chose a Dodge Durango because it seemed most economical at the same time as having room for the transportation and equipment. The vehicle would need to be converted for transportation. The cost of the vehicle would be \$43,204.00 and \$25,881.00 for the conversion, totaling to \$69,085.00. Commissioner Shrumpf made a motion to pay for the vehicle out of Cedit on site/off site in the amount of \$69,085, seconded by Commissioner Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**PLAT APPROVAL:** Brent Bockelman representing Planning & Building was present to present the Hitzelman Estates Section II plat. It was reviewed and approved in the May Planning meeting. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the plat as presented, seconded by Shrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

Commissioner Banks added that he spoke with Nathan Bilger on Thursday regarding a rezoning request, but it was a little late to add it to the agenda. Banks heard from someone over the weekend about wanting the zoning amendment on the agenda. Banks stated the agenda is always subject to change and they were prepared to discuss it if Bockelman was prepared to speak on it. Bockelman stated it was a rezoning request on State Road 14 from residential back to village commercial. The new owner would like to change it back to village commercial to help support the business that was approved by the BZA. It passed the meeting Wednesday night unanimously. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the Ordinance 2022-08, seconded by Shrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**PROJECT APPROVALS:** Commissioner Banks stated that he would speak on this since Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant was on vacation and he had Kyle Pepler from the Maintenance Dept approach the Commissioners. Banks stated that he met with Mark multiple times on the terrible drainage around the Highway building. Mark received multiple bids and Wigent had the best proposal because they will divert water by providing a secondary overflow. Banks stated the next project in discussion is the cement pad at the Solid Waste building has needed repaired since last year and out of all the vendors who responded Hilty Construction had the best proposal. The last building in discussion is the Marshal building also known as the Museum. The Museum has many things that are needed, but Banks stated he feels the most important thing is getting Atlas approved because they are working on the Courthouse and can go straight to the Museum next. Banks also stated he would like to do the rhino shield which guarantees no chipping for 25 years. This would not happen this year, but Banks would like to get it approved this year so they can start working towards that. Kyle Pepler

stated there's some wood that needs replaced before the rhino shielding. Banks stated he wasn't sure where the funds would come from yet and that they would work with the Council and the Auditor's Office to see where the best place would be to fund some of these projects. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to give a favorable pass to council for all the projects in the amount of \$297,749.00, seconded by Shrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**PLAN COMMISSION BOARD APPOINTMENT:** Commissioner Banks stated there has been a lot of interest for the appointment. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to appoint Nicki Venable to Whitley County Plan Commission, seconded by Shrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**COVERED BRIDGE CERTIFICATION:** Attorney Shipman stated this is something we do every year and we don't have any covered bridges so there's nothing to discuss. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the Covered Bridge Certification, seconded by Shrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**SMALL STRUCTURE INSPECTIONS:** Highway Director Katy Fry and Beth Johnson from USI were present to discuss the small structure inspections. Katy stated that inspections need to be done about every 8 years and the last time they were done was in 2014. We have about 290 small structures. A small structure is considered 36in to 19ft. She stated they have money in their Cum Bridge Culvert line item to pay for the inspections. She would use funding in 2023 to pay for any concerns that would come up in the inspections. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the Highway Dept and USI to proceed on the small structure inspections, seconded by Shrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The claim distributions from June 7, 2022, through June 20, 2022, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Baysinger stated that when reviewing claims, she noticed claims for an out of state conference that wasn't approved in a meeting. Commissioner Baysinger read from our policy manual and stated that all out of state conferences should come before a meeting and be approved by the Commissioners ahead of time. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Shrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, with a second by Shrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the regular meeting minutes from June 6, 2022. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Shrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Commissioner George Shrumpf stated that the Highway Department had been doing a lot of work cleaning up trees from last week's storm. Commissioner Shrumpf invited Justin Tree Services to come up and speak. Justin stated that his team specializes in coordinating disaster relief team. He stated they have the equipment and ability to move trees in a much safer way than our highway and local companies are. Their cranes are controlled by remote control eliminating the risk of harm to employees and they have the largest crane in world reaching 170ft. The dump trucks we have can only hold about 10% of what our Highway trucks hold making them much more efficient. Commissioner Banks mentioned that we are running out of room to put all the trees. Justin stated that he could bring in grinders, but for now it's best to find a staging site to set the material until they decide what to do with it such as bury, burn, or grind it. They have a strong relationship with the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest mulch distribution company in the nation that he can get in touch with to see if they would be interested in the material. Commissioner Banks stated that they would like to get with Katy and talk about what their biggest needs are.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:55 PM.

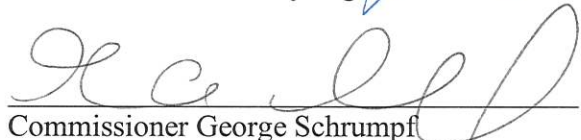
#### WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




Chair Chad Banks



Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger



Commissioner George Shrumpf

Attest: 

Tiffany Deakins, Auditor