

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 7, 2022

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, November 7, 2022, at 1:00 PM in the Commissioners' Room located on the 1st floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chair Chad Banks, Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger and Commissioner George Schrumpf. Others in attendance were Attorney Matt Shipman, Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, HR Director Jennifer Shinabery, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Health Director Scott Wagner, Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant, Councilman Tim Kumfer, Councilman Tom Warner, Ardonna Angel with EDC, and Sonya Emerick.

Chair Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: The Commissioners recognized employees with more than 20 years of service. April Waugh 20 years, Laura Enyeart 25 years, Todd Cook 25 years, Mike Puckett 25 years, Amy Motter 29 years, Randy Dellinger 34 years, Nadean Lamle 37 years, Scott Wagner 26 years, Sean Martin 26 years, Matt Rentschler 26 years, Jody Hollenbaugh 28 years, and Troy Wolfe with 28 years of service.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Shipman stated that he has reviewed the agenda items and can discuss each item as they come up. He also stated that he looked over the Extension contract renewal that is on the agenda for December and that it looked good to him.

ARP ORDINANCE: Commissioner Baysinger explained that it didn't need to be on the agenda since it was already passed by the Commissioners. It was still waiting on Council approval. There was some confusion due to some examples sent out by Andy Boxberger's assistant attorney of some examples of ordinances that other counties have done regarding the ARP funds and no action was needed.

SOLID WASTE GARAGE RESTROOM: Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant was present to discuss the Solid Waste restroom project. He received a quote in the amount of \$36,250.00 to update both bathrooms. Commissioner Baysinger stated the Solid Waste board has discussed hiring someone to do the routine cleaning to keep the bathrooms looking nice however, it has not been voted on yet. Commissioner Banks wanted to make his support known for an office space upstairs that was previously discussed due to the need of a computer space. Banks stated that we are still using note cards anytime a vehicle needs maintenance. Banks stated now might be the time to look at adding temperature control to the upstairs to save money in the long run since we will already be adding it to the bathrooms. Mark agreed and stated he would get some quotes to do the office space upstairs including adding temperature control to the upstairs. Commissioner Banks stated he thought this would be appropriate to come out of Cum Cap and Commissioner Baysinger agreed. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the \$36,250.00 to come out of Cum Cap for the Solid Waste bathroom project, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed unanimously with a 3/0 vote.

CEMETERY CLEANUP/RESTORATION: Gary Bird was present to give a PowerPoint presentation on a cemetery cleanup project. Bird has been involved in putting veteran flags on the gravesites of veterans for many years. We are currently up to nearly 3000 flags per year. The project Bird presented would be broken down into 3 phases. It is fully funded on donations and is done through volunteers. This would be a long-term project and Bird just wanted to inform the County in case they were wondering what it is they are doing as well as gain the County's support.

PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARD: Health Director Scott Wagner was present to discuss a health hazard they came across in Churubusco. The Health Department, the Humane Society and other local officials entered a residence last week that had 12 dogs and 4 birds. Some of the animals were in extremely bad condition. The house had dozens of rodents running through the house as Wagner walked through the home. Wagner would like the support to use the Health Department funds and support working with the courts to get the home condemned and either brought back up to code or torn down. Any costs to the County would be put on the homeowner's property taxes. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the Health Department to take the steps needed to eliminate the hazardous conditions of the house, seconded by Baysinger, and passed unanimously with a 3/0 vote.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CELLPHONE STIPEND REQUEST: Health Director Scott Wagner requested a cellphone stipend be allowed for Mike Malcolm the part-time Weight and Measures Inspector. Wagner stated it would be easier to pay him a cellphone stipend instead of paying him to come into the office to check the phone. Commissioner Banks asked if other part time employees receive cellphone stipends. Auditor Tiffany Deakins answered Banks that as of right now she does not believe that any other part-time employee receives a cellphone stipend. Wagner stated he could pay this from his preparedness grant fund from which he pays for the other four employees who have cellphones. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the standard

\$30 monthly cellphone stipend request for the Weights and Measurers employee to come out of the preparedness grant, seconded by Shrumpf, and passed unanimously with a 3/0 vote.

Wagner added that he will be at the next Commissioner meeting with a Health board member change. Mark Gareiss is leaving in December and Doctor Amy Sadler will be taking his place.

PLAT BOOK MAINTENANCE FUND ORDINANCE: Auditor Tiffany Deakins was present to present Ordinance 2022-20. Deakins stated that upon discussions with her Auditor group she found out that the funds the Auditors office receipts in weekly for transfers could be put into a State fund that has been established to maintain plat books. Deakins would like to use this to digitize the plat books one day. Commissioner Banks asked if it could be used to help with the server space and Deakins stated that yes, it could be used for the anything that has to do with the plat books including the server space for them. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-20, seconded by Shrumpf and passed unanimously with a 3/0 vote.

PLAT APPROVAL: Planning & Building Director Nathan Bilger was present to present a plat approval for the Ruth Hartman Addition. The property is located on 150 W and they are just splitting the acreage into 2 pieces. The plat was previously approved by the Plan Commission. Commissioner Shrumpf made a motion to approve the Ruth Hartman Addition Plat, seconded by Baysinger, and passed unanimously with a 3/0 vote. Nathan wanted to let the Commissioners know they will have a Commissioner appointment for BZA coming up at their next meeting due to someone stepping down at the end of their term.

4EOS CONTRACT: Commissioner Banks stated that the County received the 4EOS contract. Shipman reviewed the contract and thought it was a little one sided so he made some adjustments to it. It was then sent back to 4EOS for their legal counsel to review. We are now just waiting to see if they will accept the red lines. Commissioner Shrumpf made a motion to table the 4EOS contract, seconded by Baysinger, and passed unanimously with a 3/0 vote.

COMMISSIONER'S MEETING SCHEDULE: Auditor Tiffany Deakins stated she made the Commissioner meeting schedule up for 2023 based on how we have done it in previous years. Commissioner Baysinger stated she thinks it would be good to entertain the idea of having evening meetings so other constituents who are unable to attend during the day could do so. Commissioner Shrumpf made a motion to approve the schedule as prepared, seconded by Banks, and passed with a 2/1 vote with Commissioner Baysinger voting against.

FACILITIES REQUESTS: Commissioner Banks presented a facility request for Old Settlers Day on June 19th at 12pm – June 25th at 12pm, 2023. They are considering adding a hot air balloon on the Courthouse lawn. Banks stated they would need to consult with the Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant. They already have support from the Columbia City Fire Department, but Banks thinks they should also discuss it with Parkview EMS. They would probably not be giving hot air balloon rides, but just having it go up and down and Banks believes it would be a nice attraction during the day. Commissioner Baysinger stated her concern that it could jeopardize the Courthouse lawn. Banks stated Poor Jacks would not be the one running the hot air balloon and the hot air balloon was not in the facility request. Banks said they could accept the facility request and request that if they want to do anything additional they would have to bring it back. Baysinger stated she would rather table the facility request until they know exactly what they are requesting and have further information so there's only one request instead of multiple requests. Baysinger made a motion to table the facility request, seconded by Shrumpf, and passed unanimously with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from October 18, 2022, through November 7, 2022, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Schrumpf stated he checked the accounts payable and payroll claims and saw no issues. Shrumpf made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Baysinger, and passed unanimously with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Shrumpf made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, with a second by Baysinger, and passed unanimously with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the regular meeting minutes from October 17th, 2022. Commissioner Shrumpf pointed out a typo in the minutes. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with one amendment, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed unanimously with a 3/0 vote.

OTHER COUNTY BUSINESS: Gary Bird reminded the Commissioners that this weekend is the annual Veterans Marathon. The money raised will go to the South Whitley Amvets and the Sheriff's Department.

Attorney Shipman stated that we are short 2 board members on the Whitley County Regional Sewer District board. The two main things to consider are they can't live in the cities that have an existing sewer district such as Tri-lakes, Churubusco, or South Whitley.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:57 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chad Banks
Chair Chad Banks

T Baysinger
Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger

George Schrumpf
Commissioner George Schrumpf

Attest: Tiffany Deakins
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor