

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 6, 2023

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 6, 2023, 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 Robert Schuman. Others in attendance were Attorney Matthew Shipman, Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Human Resources Director Jennifer Shinabery, Deputy Auditor Tamela Tinch, County Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Health Director Scott Wagner, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Sheriff Jason Spencer, Engineer Brad Allen, Assessor Kim Erdly, Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Highway Director Katy Fry, Councilman Thomas Warner, Ardonna Angel from the EDC, Leslie Blakley, Tom Case, Sonya Emerick, Sharon Simmons, Donna Hearld, Justin Carpenter, Mark Mowrey, Ena Colbarn, Karen Rust, Ben Lenet, Jeremy Barron, Amy Herron, Gale Herron, Nathan & Sarah Randolph, Carolyn Sloan, Laurel & Tom Stockamp and Kim Patterson.

Chair Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Shipman had nothing to go over at this time other than agenda items.

COUNCIL ON AGING VEHICLE AGREEMENT APPROVAL: Leslie Blakley from Whitley County Council on Aging was present to request the approval of the two vehicles that had been ordered in 2021 and are finally getting built. Leslie stated that the vehicles have doubled in price totaling \$236,266.40. This is 80% covered by Indiana Department of Transportation and the 20% would be covered locally. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Schuman and carried with a 3/0 vote.

HIGHWAY ANNUAL REPORT & ROW PERMIT: Highway Director Katy Fry was present to review the annual report that needs to be sent to INDOT for 2022. The report shows receipts, expenditures and revenues for the Highway Department. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger and carried with a 3/0 vote. Katy also has a right of way permit that needs to be approved by Commissioners for gas services to be run in Churubusco at Blue Lake. The Engineer has reviewed as well as the Highway Department. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. Katy also let Commissioners know that she is waiting on final dollar amount from the Schrader Auction that she had several items in it to be sold.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE: Auditor Tiffany Deakins presented a Certificate of Compliance from Wells Fargo for the Bond that is issued on the Government Center. This is an annual request from Wells Fargo that requires the Auditor and Chair of Commissioners to sign. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve as presented, with a second by Schuman, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

POLLING LOCATIONS: Clerk Cindy Doolittle was present to request that the Commissioners approve the polling locations for the small election for 2023. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the request, with a second by Schuman and passed unanimously with a 3/0 vote.

PTABOA MEMBER APPROVALS: Assessor Kim Erdly was present to ask Commissioners to keep Greg Fahl, Jeff Walker, and Treasa Sideris as PTABOA board members. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve, with a second by Schuman and carried with a 3/0 vote.

REZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Planning Director Nathan Bilger was present to again seek approval of the rezoning ordinance amendment that would correct a typo that was in the previously approved ordinance. The Commissioners still have roughly 60 days to make a decision on this and would like to table it again to gather more information. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to table the ordinance, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote to table.

FRINGE BENEFIT ORDINANCE: Commissioner Banks stated that during an audit it was brought to fruition that the County needed to adopt a fringe benefit policy/ordinance. Commissioners have reviewed the Ordinance as well as Attorney Shipman and see no problems. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-04, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote.

DOSSETT CONTRACT RENEWAL: Commissioners reviewed the contract for Dossett Consulting that is used to help recover funds from the IV-D, Courts and Prosecutors office for direct and indirect funds. Commissioner Schuman moved to sign the contract with the 3-year renewal for a total of \$17,100 for 3 years. Seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote.


FACILITIES REQUESTS: Commissioner Banks presented four facility requests, one for the use of the gazebo, lawn, and sidewalks from the Department of Child Services on April 3rd from 12-1 pm. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request was for Students for Life to use the sidewalks May 6th from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the request as presented, seconded by Baysinger, and passed with a 3/0 vote. The third request was for the Whitley County Republican Party to use meeting rooms A/B at the Government Center on April 18th at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the request as presented, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote, Baysinger also wanted to state that they would also approve if this were for the Democratic Party as well. The fourth request is for the Courthouse lawn on National Day of Prayer May 4th from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from February 22, 2023, through March 6, 2023, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Schuman stated he reviewed the claims with Councilman Wheeler and saw no issues. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed minutes from the February 21, 2023, regular meeting minutes and requested a few changes be made, Commissioners will approve the minutes at their next meeting.

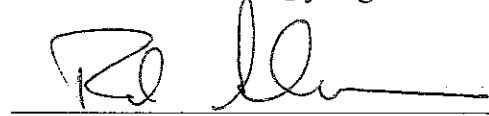
OTHER BUSINESS: Constituents addressed their concerns and/or approval regarding the new jail location and the potential impacts for the County.

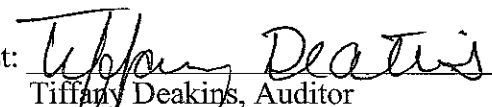
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:47 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chair Chad Banks


Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger


Commissioner Robert Schuman

Attest: 
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor