

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 6, 2018

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, August 6, 2018 at 1:00 pm in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman George Schrumpf, Vice Chairman Don Amber and Commissioner Thomas Western. Others in attendance were County Attorney Matt Shipman, County Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator/HR Director Angela Campbell, Sandi Gray and Abbi Ogden from the Whitley County Humane Society, Beverly Flanagan from the EDC, Barbara Hohenstein, Debra Darr from Whitley County Council on Aging, Mackenzie DeGroot from the Post & Mail, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, County Clerk Debbie Beers, James Odle, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Sharon Geiger, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Sheriff Marc Gatton, Randy Gordon, Alan Buck from the Humane Society, Scott Wagner from the Health Department and EMA Director Amy Biggs.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: County Attorney Matt Shipman informed the Commissioners that he reviewed the Peterson Consulting Services contract and has given his approval for them to sign it. The purpose of the contract is to assist Whitley County in preparing the annual update of its annual asset information for financial reporting for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the Peterson Consulting contract, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Attorney Shipman was also present to give his approval for the ordinance of the right-of-way along Raber Road and 300 South.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY FINDING OF APPARENT RIGHT-OF-WAY ALONG RABER ROAD AND 300 SOUTH: Commissioner Schrumpf opened the public hearing on the preliminary finding of apparent right-of-way long Raber Road and 300 South. There were not any questions or comments at this time from the public or the Commissioners.

Commissioner Schrumpf reconvened the regular Commissioner meeting.

Planning Director Nathan Bilger was present to discuss the preliminary finding of apparent right-of-way along Raber Road and 300 South. There has been an abundance of research on the right-of-way and the preliminary finding of apparent right-of-way was adopted on June 18th. The right-of-way is forty feet in width, or twenty feet on each side of the road centerline. Nathan stated that because there was not any objection to the preliminary finding or any proposed changes, the Commissioners may adopt the ordinance at this time. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-04, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE IN POLLING LOCATION: County Clerk Debbie Beers was present to discuss a polling location change request. There are some concerns for the Columbia South polling location, which is the Columbia City Fire Department. Due to these concerns, Debbie is proposing the Columbia South be combined with Columbia East and Northwest. The polling location for all three then would be the First Church of God. Debbie stated that they would not go over the amount of voters allowed at one polling location if the Commissioners make this change. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve request, seconded by Amber and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE OWNERSHIP OF THE SWAT BUS: Emergency Management Director Amy Biggs was present to seek the Commissioner's approval to take possession of the former ambulance that was used jointly by the Columbia City Police Department and the County Sheriff as a SWAT vehicle. Amy stated that their intent was to sell the vehicle and use the monies for a Command Trailer Project they have been working on the last couple of years. Amy stated that Police Chief Scott Leatherman has given his support and has spoken with the City Clerk about the processing of the paperwork. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve acquiring possession of the vehicle, seconded by Western and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote. Amy also gave an update on the three trainings that Whitley County hosted in the last week.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SALT BARN CONSTRUCTION BID NOTICE: Whitley County Highway Engineer Director Brandon Forester was present to present the salt barn bid specs for the construction of the salt barn. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the salt barn construction bid notice to bidders, seconded by Western and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: Whitley County Highway Engineer Director Brandon Forester presented right of way permits. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve South Raber Rd & 1000 S right of way permit, seconded by Amber and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve 400N right of way permit, seconded by Western and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve 2050 S Wolf Rd right of way permit, seconded by Amber and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve CR 400 N gas service right of way permit, seconded by Amber and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE WELL EXEMPTION: Health Director Scott Wagner was present to discuss servicing Mr. Odle’s well after adding on a porch. Scott stated that he does not see any problems with servicing the well in its current location with the additional of the porch. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE GRANT VOUCHER SIGNATURE: Debra Darr from Whitley County Council on Aging was present to have the grant voucher signed by the chairman. The Commissioners reviewed the information regarding the voucher before the meeting. The State share of the voucher was \$18,129.00 and the Federal share was \$64,004.00 for a total of \$82,133.00. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request and for the Chairman to sign the voucher, seconded by Commissioner Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

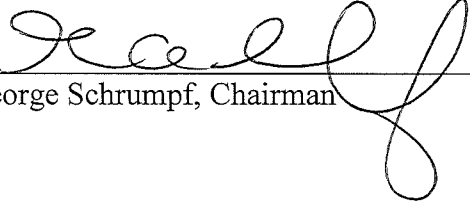
IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW DIRECTOR ABBI OGDEN AND HUMANE SOCIETY UPDATE: President of the Humane Society Board, Sandi Gray, was present to give a Humane Society update on the system upgrades, donations, programs and specific hoarder cases they have had within the last year. Sandi also introduced the new Director Abbi Ogden to the Commissioners.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the June 18, 2018 regular meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the payroll claims. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from July 16, 2018 through August 6, 2018 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.


IN OTHER BUSINESS: Whitley County Sheriff Gatton was present to present a check that was received for a squad car that hit a deer on July 7, 2018 from the insurance company in the amount of \$13,293. Gatton requested a favorable pass from the Commissioners to go to Council to request the monies from the check be put into the Sheriff’s account to be used towards the new squad cars being purchased. Commissioner Amber made a motion to give a favorable pass for an additional appropriation in the amount of the check, seconded by Western and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote. Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented two plats, Black Hills Section 2 Subdivision and Middle Pond Subdivision. Both plats were approved by the Planning Commission in June 2018. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the Black Hills Subdivision, seconded by Amber and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the Middle Pond Subdivision, seconded by Amber and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote. Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester discussed a possible vacation of any excess right of way on the North side of the Liberty Mills roundabout. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table the discussion until the project is complete, seconded by Commissioner Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 2:25 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schrumpf, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman


Thomas Western

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor