

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
January 7, 2013

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, January 7, 2013 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Don Amber, George Schrumpf and Tom Rethlake. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Dan Sigler, Otto Boschet Jr, Brett Myers- Post & Mail, Michael Barton, Brandon Forrester, Joan Null, Stanley Crum, Rita Sauders, Bill Overdeer, Mark Hodges-WC Sheriff, Scott Jones, John Barrett, Henry Janda, Frank Hoffman and Katie Wagner.

Chairman Amber called the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Chairman Amber announced for the first meeting of the 2013 year that an election of officers needed done. Rethlake made a motion for the nomination of Schrumpf to be Chairman for 2013, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. Next the appointment was made for Amber as Vice Chair and Rethlake Commissioner Member for the 2013 calendar year.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY: Dan Sigler, County Attorney, reported that he had reviewed the Accurate Assessment contracts for new construction and trending and gave his blessing for the Commissioner to sign the contracts for the Assessor Rita Sauders for the 2013 assessments. Attorney Sigler has been contacted by an Attorney in regards to the Ordinance Violation issued to Paul & Gladys Shaw for removal of trash and vehicles from the residence located at 6755 St Rd 114 Roanoke they feel some of the vehicles should not have been removed and will follow up later with any new findings. Sexual Harassment training will be conducted by Attorney Sigler for the Department heads on Thursday January 9, 2013 from 8-9am. The Interlocal Agreement between Solid Waste and Whitley County has been updated to reflect the new Treasurer Laurell Hodges and is ready to sign by all the parties for 2013.

IN THE MATTER OF 9-1-1 EQUIPMENT: Scott Jones, E911 Director, brought his recommendation before the Commissioners to go with Frontier/Indigital Solocom for the County's NextGen 9-1-1 system. He has reviewed all the proposals and feels Frontier is compliant with an IP based system that will receive video, photo and alarms by cellular companies, experience in the 911 field, has 27 PSAP's in Indiana and 4 of the 9 NE Indiana 911 consortium counties have already installed the Frontier system at their counties. After discussion a motion by Rethlake to move ahead with the contract with Frontier/Indigital Solacom, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote to use Frontier as a vendor for the 9-1-1 equipment contract.

IN THE MATTER OF DNR PROPERTY THORNCREEK: Attorney Sigler updated the Commissioners that the properties located at the Camp Samaritan and Fish Hatchery are reverted back to the State of Indiana, if the County no longer complies with the IC code when the properties transferred in 2010. Attorney Sigler will follow up with the State contact on this matter. Commissioner Rethlake invited Sigler to attend the January 17, Risk Management meeting in regards to Legal Theories of Negligence.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT: Sheriff Hodges came before the Commissioners to report the update to the Jail showers is completed and everything came in within the budgeted quote and everything looks wonderful. Hodges also reported that GPS tracking devices have been installed in eleven of the Deputies cars at a cost of \$17,000 and an annual maintenance of around \$4,000 that will be paid from the Commissary Fund. The devices are for the officer's safety in a crash or loss of radio signal from the officer, but it can also be used administratively, if rules or regulations need reviewed from the department. All the monitoring is run through the Sheriff's department dispatch. The inmate count at the Jail and clients at the Community Corrections still remain high and will have to be addressed in the future if space becomes an issue. Sheriff Hodges is undecided about retiring the SUV used by Dellinger for the County Coroner, but will work with whatever the Commissioners decide on the matter.

IN THE MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Minutes from the December 17, 2012 were reviewed and a motion to approve as presented was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Claims for disbursement on January 7, 2013 were reviewed after discussion and a motion to allow was made by Rethlake, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF COVERED BRIDGE 2013: The annual request per IC 8-14-1-10 to report any Covered Bridges within the County was presented to the Commissioners. After discussion of the formality of the request a motion to sign was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER NATURAL GAS BIDS: Commissioner Amber has reviewed all the information on the Natural Gas bids submitted by vendors, and at this time, recommends staying with Border Energy for the gas supply for the County buildings, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote to approve the Contract for services. Amber will get some clarification on language being used within the Contract from Tom Payne at Border Energy and report back his findings.

IN THE MATTER OF PLAN COMMISSION APPOINTMENT: Two candidates had showed interest in the Churubusco Plan Commission appointment Paula Grawcock and Roger Bennett. After discussion on the appointments and requirements, a motion to appoint Paula Grawcock to the Churubusco Plan Commission was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Rethlake wants letters from interested parties for further appointments of why interested and what background they would bring to the Commission if appointed.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Michael Barton passed out an Ordinance from a different County in regards to damaged mailboxes from snow removal. At this time Whitley County does not have an actual Policy in place and Barton wants the Commissioners to review this example and come up with any suggestions to implement a Policy to put in place for guidance for Whitley County. The Commissioners tabled the issue for further research on the Policy. Michael also presented an Estimate to update the phone systems at the Highway Buildings and Solid Waste buildings, they use the same vendor, SDS Communications, that updates the phones in the Government Center in 2010 and nothing was done at that time at the Highway location. The Commissioners will review the information and see where to fund the project from.

IN THE MATTER OF VACATION 700 EAST: Brandon Forrester, County Engineer, updated the Commissioners that he had been contacted by INDOT on the Vacation of 700 East in regards to the railroad crossing at Steel Dynamics. INDOT wants to remove the rail crossing equipment and use at a different location. SDI is ok with the removal of the crossing, but for liability reasons, some sort of barrier needs to be constructed on both sides of the track. Discussion on the Vacation of extending it to Hiler Road for safety reasons was tabled for more information at this time by the Commissioners.

IN MATTER OF CEDIT 2-YEAR PLAN: The final 2013/2014 CEDIT Plan was presented with the Project #13 added for Bridge #10 to help with the cost if needed in the amount of \$100,000. A motion by Amber to present the Plan to Council in the morning was made, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CORONER'S OFFICE: Commissioner Amber had reviewed the office space in the jail basement again for accessibility and privacy that the Coroner had requested. He feels like the location will fill both those request and should work out for the needs of the newly elected Randy Dellinger. Further discussion in the retirement of the SUV from the Sheriff's department for the use of the Coroner's needs was discussed, a motion to not allow was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: The contract with Dan Sigler for the County Attorney 2013 was tabled until reviewed. A US Flag donated by Captain Cynthia Turner a 22 year retiree of the US Navy was presented to the Commissioners from John Barrett Chairman of the County Council to be flown at a Government office. Commissioners did a review of the appointments for the 2013 Boards and Committees assignments from the Commissioners with no changes.

With no further business or comments from the public the meeting was adjourned.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

George Schrupf, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor