

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 4, 2013

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 13, 2013 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman George Schrumpf, Don Amber and Tom Rethlake. Auditor Jennifer McGuire was absent. Also in attendance was Dan Sigler, Pam Smith, Brett Myers-Post & Mail, Katie Wagner-Churubusco News, Michael Barton, Michael Aylesworth-IDEM, Rita Sauders, Bill Schultz, Scott Jones, Glenn Western, Joan Null, Stanley Crum, Frank Hoffman, Ernest Brindley, and Charlotte Brindley.

Chairman Schrumpf called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:** Dan Sigler, County Attorney, stated that the Humane Shelter Memorandum of Understanding had been signed and completed. There was discussion and concern from the Commissioners regarding a small claim to collect fees from an Election Board member. Dan said that he would send a letter to the candidate to enforce their obligation. Dan informed the Commissioners about a septic issue in the south part of the county and he has a hearing scheduled for April 2013 to address the issue. Dan also informed the Commissioners that he did review the 9-1-1 contract and it is in proper and legal form and he gave his approval to accept the contract once the final draft is received from Frontier. The deadline for equipment replacement is March 27, 2013. A motion to approve the 9-1-1 contract, once we receive the final draft, was made by Amber, due to the fact that we have a deadline date to meet for equipment purchases of March 27, 2013, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF EDC 2012 REVIEW:** Alan Tio, EDC Director, presented the 2012 Year In Review, which included investments by new and expanding companies and new jobs created in 2012. Alan also shared with the Commissioners the 2013 Work Plan that the EDC has initiated, which includes business attraction, business retention and community development programs.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Michael Barton, Highway Director, reported that the Liberty Mills and 900 S road project was in the final planning stages. He also reported that they were currently advertising for the purchase of a new highway truck and that the sealed bids may be submitted until 11:00am on March 18, 2013 and will be opened at the Commissioners meeting that same day at 2:00pm. Michael informed the Commissioners that they should have enough salt and sand to last to the end of this winter season, as long as there are no major snow storms.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:** Brandon Forrester, Engineer, reported that at the current Cum Cap rate, the County will only be able to sustain one (1) bridge per year. He would like to request an increase in the rates to allow for more bridge repairs. Commissioners reviewed Brandon's request, and with discussion, advised Brandon to present his request to the Council.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** Minutes from the February 19, 2013, Commissioner Meeting were reviewed, Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. Claims for March 4, 2013, disbursements were reviewed by Commissioner Schrumpf with discussion regarding the expenditure for the cameras purchased from CCPD. A motion to approve claims was made by Amber, with an explanation for the CCPD camera expense, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR:** Pam Smith, County Coordinator, submitted a request to use the county facilities. The City of Columbia City has requested to use the Court House lawn for their annual Whitley County Autumn Art Festival on Saturday, September 7, 2013. A motion was made to approve the request by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Pam presented the new 2013 EAP Bowen Center contract that had already been approved by our County Attorney to the Commissioners, with no changes from 2012. A motion was made to approve the contract by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. She also presented a change to our current

policy 2.7 Employment Categories, which includes a regular full-time employee working an average of 37.5 hours per week, based on the County's full-time schedule and a part-time employee working no more than 29.5 hours per week. The definition of hours in the policy was added to avoid penalties with part-time workers under the Affordable Care Act that take effect in 2014. A motion was made to approve the policy change, pending definition provided at the next Commissioners meeting as to the part-time hours ruling that takes effect in 2014, by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Also, the current policy 5.7 Use of Equipment and Vehicles was reviewed and Pam presented a revision to this policy which would be called the Fleet Safety Program for the Commissioners to review at this time only. It was discussed the revised 5.7 Fleet Safety Program policy be forwarded to the members of the Fleet Safety Committee for review and their input.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Commissioner Amber informed the group that he is currently working with members of Whitley County and The Troyer Group to develop an ADA compliance plan for our County buildings. All the Commissioners agreed to get other quotes from consultants for ADA compliance. A member of the public, Ernie Brindley, discussed with the Commissioner some concerns that he had with our current property assessment process and why there was such a variance in the 2012 compared to the prior years.

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

#### **WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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George Schrupf, Chairman

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Don Amber, Vice Chairman

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Tom Rethlake

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Jennifer McGuire

Auditor