

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
March 18, 2013

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, March 18, 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 were Attorney Dan Sigler, Pam Smith, April Whetstone – County Recorder, Otto Boschet Jr, Katie Wagner- Churubusco News, Michael Barton, Kevin Woodward, Bill Smith, Brett Myers, Dennis Cobb, Joan Null and Henry Janda.

Chairman Schrumpf called the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF THE RECORDER'S OFFICE: April Whetstone, County Recorder, updated the Commissioners regarding a current lawsuit filed by Fidler against a company that was using the County's recorded information without our consent. There are approximately twenty counties that are being affected by the company. The company is accessing the County's account but then not paying for the information it is downloading. Attorney Sigler directed Whetstone to contact others in the Recorder's Association and use the Attorney General to represent all the Counties for a civil claim.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY: County Attorney Dan Sigler presented two requests that are going to require a County Ordinance be implemented for the Sheriff's department. The first law change is the requirement of an electronic finger print starting May 15, 2013 to obtain a handgun permit. At this time the Sheriff's department would like to purchase the machinery for this and charge a \$10.00 fee so the individual does not have to file paperwork at the jail, leave to get the fingerprint, and then come back to complete the permit. Questions of what the cost of the equipment would be and how it's going to be paid for and if the electronic equipment would be used for normal bookings came from the Commissioners. Attorney Sigler will work on the Ordinance and check on the fee amount with Sheriff Hodges. The next Ordinance is a fee charged to Sex Offenders for registering in Whitley County. This same Ordinance is being enforced by other Counties throughout the State. The Ordinance will be advertised and reviewed for approval. Attorney Sigler approved the Commissioners to sign the Quit Claim deed releasing the Fish Hatchery property back to the State of Indiana under the DNR, a motion by Amber to proceed with the Quit Claim, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote to sign the property back over to the State. The Camp Samaritan property is still being reviewed and the State is working with Camp Whitley and their non-profit status.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY TRUCK BIDS: Michael Barton, Highway Director, opened the two bids for a 2014 single axel truck. The first bid was from Stoops for a Freightliner in the amount of \$90,835, the second bid was from Sulking for an International for the amount of \$84,945.00 this was just for the truck and the chassis. The last bids were from WA Jones for the dump bed \$24,166.48, underbody \$18,470.52, hydraulics \$10,685.00 and 34" snow plow hitch \$2,165.00 for a total of \$55,487 to equip the truck and chassis. Barton will review all the bids and report back to the Commissioners in the next meeting. If any money is left over from the \$150,000 appropriation Barton wants to purchase a power washer for the Highway that cost about \$9,000. Since this funding is from CEDIT it will have to be approved by both the Commissioners and Council for the change before the purchase is approved.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HUMANE SHELTER: The invoices from the Humane Shelter for January and February 2013 were reviewed and approved. This will bring the account current with the Agreement with the County and each month a claim will be processed for the number of animals processed from the County not to exceed the amount of \$25,000 appropriation that was approved out of CEDIT funding for 2013.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Minutes from the March 4, 2013 Commissioner were reviewed, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve as submitted, striking the last sentence in "Other Business" seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Claims for March 18, 2013 disbursements were reviewed by Commissioner Amber, reimbursement for PTBOA meetings, Tri-Lakes Sewer billing back to State, food expense for Work release, Ipads purchased at Wal-Mart, were claims being questioned. A motion to approve claims was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Rethlake noted the amount paid to transfer inmates and asked where the County was in the video conferencing to help cut cost. At this time Sheriff Hodges has interviewed two companies and working on the overall project.

IN THE MATTER OF ADA COMPLIANT: Commissioner Don Amber is now in charge as the official ADA Coordinator for Whitley County. Commissioner Amber has been working with different groups to make sure Whitley County is compliant with all the guidelines. Dennis Cobbs, from First Group, was on hand to explain ADA rules and regulations help develop a plan in order for the County to receive funds from INDOT. Three major goals adopt an ordinance County wide that we will follow ADA laws and not discriminate, second formalize a grievance procedure to handle complaints and inventory the facilities and areas that are the responsibilities of that the County will have jurisdiction over. This is an “Unfunded” mandate by the State but still needs to have some sort of documentation and budget on how the County wants to prioritize areas the need repair on an annual basis. All records need kept for things done improving ADA in unincorporated areas throughout the County.

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR USE OF COUNTY FACILITIES: Pam Smith, County Coordinator, submitted a request from the Whitley County Child Services for the use of the Court House gazebo on Tuesday April 16, 2013 at 7pm for a candle light presentation for Prevent Child Abuse month. A motion to allow was made by Rethlake, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The next request was an update to 2.7 in the County Employee policy manual for the number of hours worked by an employee for insurance coverage. The updated hours for 2014 for a part-time employee cannot exceed 29.5 hours. A motion to allow the change was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote to approve the handbook policy change. A note that an Easter celebration for all County employees will be at Bones Theatre on Saturday March 30, 2013 and children can have their pictures taken with the Easter bunny from 9-10 am and then enjoy a movie afterwards.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: The 2013 Certified Budget Order was approved Monday March 11, 2013 from the State. The Vehicle monthly inventory report from the Sheriff’s department was reviewed and discussed age of cars and average mileage. Commissioner Schrumpf is working on the assets list with Star Insurance for coverage on all County equipment.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

George Schrumpf, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor