

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 1, 2013

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, April 1, 2013 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman George Schrupf and Tom Rethlake. Vice Chairman Don Amber and County Attorney Dan Sigler were absent. Also in attendance were Auditor Jennifer McGuire, Pam Smith, Dave Sewell, Otto Boschet Jr, Katie Wagner- Churubusco News, Michael Barton, Bill Smith, Brett Myers, Tom O'Neill, Jim Fleck, David Lehman, Dick Buchanan, Betty Wilkinson, Galen Wilkinson, Jeanette Brown, Cindy Barnett, Doug Brown and Joan Null.

Chairman Schrupf called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY:** With County Attorney Dan Sigler absent the two requests for County Ordinances, one establishing a fee for registering sex offenders within Whitley County and one for a fee in obtaining a hand gun permit for finger printing requirements will be tabled until the April 15, 2013 Commissioner meeting for review and approval by the Commissioners.

**IN THE MATTER OF REZONING:** Dave Sewell, Director of Planning and Building, presented an Ordinance amending the zoning to reclassify property located in the Vincent Gaff's addition to the Town of Dunfee Section 1 Jefferson Township. The classification would change from RR (Rural Residential District) to VC (Village Commercial District) for the .34 acre parcel. No one attended the public meeting for the Planning and Building and one letter of concern came in from the public from an adjacent property owner, after discussion a motion to allow the reclassification on Ordinance #2013-01 was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 2/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY EXTENSION 2013:** Cindy Barnett from the Whitley County Extension office did a 2013 update for the Commissioners discussing the programs available from the Extension office. The handout showed the programs in Health and Human Sciences, 4-H Youth Development, Economic and Community Development and Agriculture and Natural Resources and how the impact of reduced staffing has eliminated some of the programs previously offered. Other discussion by Cindy was the Extension Newsletter now being done in house to save money and time. Barnett also questioned the portion of the Annex that was previously being used by the Whitley Literacy Council and if that space is available for the Extension office. After discussion the Commissioners will contact the Literacy Council and see if they no longer require the space and where they have moved before making a decision.

**IN THE MATTER OF WHITLEY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY:** Jeanette Brown from the Genealogy Society announced to the Commissioners that April 1, 1838 was when Whitley County was organized marking this as the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year for the County. There will be a celebration on April 18, 2013 at 6pm at the Peabody Library to celebrate and welcomes the public and elected officials to attend. The Genealogy Society would like a Proclamation from the Commissioners in observance of this anniversary for Whitley County.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The claims for April 1, 2013 were reviewed by Commissioner Rethlake, he noted the Bridge #10 project completed, large amount for ID badges and claim #128501 to Fidar if the amount is correct after discussion a motion by Rethlake to approve the claims, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 2/0 vote. For the Minutes from the March 18, 2013 meeting after reviewing, Rethlake made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 2/0 vote. The minutes from the Executive Session held on March 18, 2013 to discuss personnel matters were reviewed and a motion by Rethlake to approve these minutes, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 2/0 vote. The corrections to the March 4, 2013 minutes were noted but previously approved.

**IN THE MATTER OF PASSAGES REQUEST FOR FUNDING:** Tom O'Neill, President CEO, presented an overview of the economic impact that Passages has had on Whitley County over the years serving thousands of individuals and families impacted by intellectual disabilities. Passages employees 182 employees and 85% of them reside in Whitley County. They have an annual budget of \$5.3 million and a payroll of \$4 million they also operate 43 apartments and 29 single family homes and show \$200,000 annually spent with local contractors and repair services at these locations. Mr. O'Neill and representatives from his Board, Jim Fleck, Dave Lehman, Alan Tio and Dick Buchanan would like to request \$25,000 from the County CEDIT program for funding their Capital Campaign. This would come from CEDIT Project #2 On Site/Off Site Improvements. After discussion the request was tabled until all the Commissioners were present to discuss and support the request and then present the request to Council for final approval.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Michael Barton addressed the two bids for the new highway truck both Selking and Stoop's bids meet all the specification requirements for the bid so the purchase will be with the Selking for the bid of \$84,945 and the bid for truck equipment was granted to WA Jones for \$55,487 with the option of the stainless steel bed in the amount of \$3984. The entire single axel truck purchase will be \$144,416, Barton added he still wanted the diesel Pressure Washer for the amount of \$6939 putting the entire amount to be \$151,355 and he would pay for the amount of 1355.84 out of MVH funding for the overage of the appropriation of \$150,000. A request to use the County Highway parking lot for an event at the Humane Shelter on Saturday April 13, 2013 was addressed and if for liability reasons an Agreement needed to be signed by both parties. Pam Smith County Coordinator will review this issue and work with the Humane Society.

**IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT:** A Utility Permit from CenturyLink to place buried cable at the intersection of County Road 550 West and County Road 275 North was requested. This will replace the buried cable facilities that were damaged when Highway crew was doing side ditch work at the intersection. A motion to allow the permit was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 2/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR:** Pam Smith issued a request for an extension of Short Term Disability for an County employee until April 8, 2013 and an additional \$675.00 payout, a motion to allow the extension was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrupf and granted with a 2/0 vote. A change to 5.7 Fleet Safety Program to allow the committee to have driver checks for all drivers of County vehicles effective June,1, 2013, after discussion a motion to allow the change was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 2/0 vote.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** John Passey from VS Engineering addressed the Commissioners as a contact person for any Civil Engineering projects throughout the County and gave some history he had with Whitley County on previous work being completed and new business cards for his regional office located in Fort Wayne. Notice of the name change for the library in South Whitley to South Whitley Community Public Library was addressed. Betty Wilkinson addressed the Commissioners in regards to the library tax rate being implemented to Richland and Cleveland townships to funding the library budget and does not feel it was properly done by statue. The Whitley County Community Corrections March 2013 Program update completed by Paula Worden was reviewed. Auditor McGuire is working with MicroAge and Advanced Imaging to implement a Fax Server for the Government Center that would allow faxes to come into the offices via emails instead of the fax machines, this would eliminate some of the fax machines and phone lines for a cost savings. Indiana Homeland Security District #3 will have Show-N-Tell of their Task Force teams and equipment at the Kruse Auction Park on Tuesday April 16, 2013 and Wednesday April 17, 2013. The 2012 Annual Jail Statistic Report was presented for review.

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