

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 3, 2013

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, June 3, 2013 at 1pm in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman George Schrupf, Vice Chair Don Amber and Tom Rethlake. Also in attendance were Auditor Jennifer McGuire, Pam Smith, Dan Sigler, Michael Barton, Sheriff Hodges, Marc Gatton, Frank Kessler, Alan Tio, Mayor Ryan Daniels, Harry Oelschlager, Bev Kohne, Joyce Lane, Stanley Crum, Joan Null, Bill Smith, Otto Boschet, Chad Burch, Henry & Jean Janda, Bill Reece, Katie Wagner and Brett Myers.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUPLED PRODUCTS:** Joyce Lane from Local UAW #2049 representing the Bargaining Chair and Financial Secretary for the union, wanted to express her concerns about picketing at Coupled Products on County Road 600 East. She felt like the teamsters were not getting protection from some of the incidents at the location. Sheriff Hodges will address the concerns and look into the complaints. Also discussed was the current speed limit of 55 mph for the entrance to the new industrial park with the semi traffic and the railroad crossing. The Highway department will look into the issue for this concern. The Commissioner's thanked them for coming and wanted them to know that "Safety" first was an issue.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY:** County Attorney Dan Sigler had reviewed the current State Indiana Code #12-29-2-2 regarding the County's payment for mental health issues. The code states that the County "Shall" make these payments so there is no option at this time to change but needs addressed at the State law makers' level for implementing differently. Auditor McGuire will look into see what other Counties in the Northeast District are paying and who they are paying the appropriation to for the obligation. Next issue addressed was Ordinance #2013-05 Amending the Ordinance #2011-04 regulating On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems for the Health Department, after discussion a motion by Amber, seconded by Rethlake carried with a 3/0 vote that after the amendment Ordinance is advertised two time it will be implemented by the July 1, 2013 effective date for the State. The next Ordinance is #2013-04 regarding 53.03 for parcels of land over twenty acres being excluded from the current County Junk & Trash Ordinance. This was tabled again until June 17, 2013 to correct some language and protect the farmer's equipment. Attorney Sigler will work with Scott Wagner and the Commissioner's to coordinate.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE EDC PROJECTS:** Alan Tio presented two projects for new economic growth in Whitley County. The first project is with a company called Blue M Medical that will work with stainless steel instrumentation for the orthopedic industry. The request is for funding of \$25,000 out of CEDIT and a RLF (Revolving Loan Fund) of \$75,000 to support the proposed projects. After discussion of EDC Investment Board and what the City of Columbia City wants to offer for the project a motion by Amber to approve the \$25,000 out of On Site/Off Site Project as a favorable recommendation to County Council and approval of the \$75,000 for the RLF, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second project is with InWelligent Healthcare specializing in "Complementary and Alternative Medicine" based out of Waterbury, CT. They want to locate in Churubusco as the corporate headquarters for their clinics. This will create up to 50 full-time positions and 5 part-time. After discussion and some history on the company a motion by Amber to approve the \$100,000 with a favorable recommendation to the County Council with the payout being distributed in installments, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER COUNTY RADIO SYSTEM:** Sheriff Hodges wanted to update the Commissioners on the County radios. They want to go back to the VHF system on the hand held radios. The 800 MHz system is too cluttered. In the instances of the storm of 2012 during Old Settler Day's and the 2011 Blizzard for examples the radio traffic was down. The Sheriff's department is working with J & K Communications and the narrow banding will be exclusive to Whitley County. There will be a mockup of the coverage for them to test in July and August. The Sheriff will look at funding the project half out of Commissary and requesting the other half from CEDIT funding for around a total cost of \$45,000 to \$50,000. After discussion this was tabled until the equipment can be tested to meet specifications and a final cost is quoted.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY:** Michael Barton addressed the Commissioners for the projects at the Highway Department. The calcium chloride Summer applications will start next week if the weather holds up. If the property owner wants more than 200 feet they will have to contact GLC directly for additional applications. The Lincolnway West project is on hold because of the bad weather. The Highway is purchasing a new backhoe through a Lease Program in the amount of \$85,000. Commissioner Amber gave a "Thank You" to the Highway department on the extra work for the enormous amount of rain from the Storms over the weekend.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY HEALTH COVERAGE:** Chad Burch, from Phillips Financial, reviewed recommendations for the County Health coverage. The increases in 2014 for

employee contribution, deductibles, out of pocket and prescriptions will still keep the Health coverage "Grandfathered" under the current plan without causing a large impact of cost to the County employees. A motion by Rethlake to accept the changes to Employee Contributions \$26.60 Employee Only, \$70.15 Employee & Child, \$88.85 Employee & Spouse and \$128.40, increased deductibles for Employee and Family, the Deductibles for In and Out of Network, the Out of Pocket, Retail Brand Prescription co-pay and Mail Order Brand Prescriptions, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The County employees will be given their thirty day notice of change for the plan and the new cost will be implemented for coverage on August 1, 2013.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** Minutes from special meeting May 13, 2013 were approved as presented by Rethlake, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The regular May 20, 2013 meeting Minutes were reviewed a motion by Amber to approve as presented, seconded by Rethlake, and carried with a 2/0 vote with Schrupf abstaining. The claims disbursements for June 3, 2013 were reviewed by Commissioner Amber, after discussion a motion by Rethlake to approve the claims, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. Claims to Havel for \$2200, the \$500 Flower donation to the City of Columbia City and a payment for West Payment Center were discussed for further clarification.

**IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT:** Commissioner Amber rescinded his motion to approve the Utility Permit for Impact CNC to bore under Governors Drive from the May 20, 2013 meeting. Impact CNC is now a #811 location for utility and can run their "private" fiber cable in the right away easement. A motion by Amber to approve the new Utility Permit, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR:** Pam Smith, County Coordinator, had a Request to use County facilities by Redman Plumbing to observe Elks Flag Day Service on Saturday June 15, 2013 from 11:30 am to 1pm. A motion by Rethlake to approve the request, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Auditor McGuire will check with other Counties on the appropriations for Human Services mandated by the State. Commissioner Rethlake attended Community Corrections meeting. Rethlake would still like to see an itemized receipt and expenditures report from the Humane Society. Commissioner Amber has been working on the ADA compliancy for Whitley County. The ADA Transition Plan is now on the County website and will be taking comments from June 1 through June 30, 2013. Amber will be meeting with SDI to follow-up on correcting the semi traffic on County roadways.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 3:36 pm.

#### **WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Absent  
George Schrupf, Chairman

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Don Amber, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Rethlake

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer McGuire  
Auditor