

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**October 21, 2013**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, October 21, 2013 at 1:00pm 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, Michael Barton, Brandon Forrester, Kurt Heidenrich- Engineering Resources, Stanley Crum, Lori Kreider, Dan Weigold, Laurell Hodges Bill Smith Christie Barkley and Katie Wagner.

Chairman Schrupf opened the meeting with the pledge.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:** County attorney Dan Sigler was absent from the meeting.

**IN THE MATTER OF BRIDGE INSPECTION AND CONTRACT:** Brandon Forrester, County Engineer, and Kurt Heidenrich from Engineering Resources were present to update the Commissioners on the Bridge Inspection packets. Engineering Resources was chosen after the Request for Proposals from four vendors was submitted for the Whitley County bridge consultants. The four firms were BLN, USI, Clark Dietz and Engineering Resources. Brandon gave an overall history of the process for the bridge inspection process, pricing, reimbursement, contract requirements and approval from INDOT and the 80% reimbursement on projects. Without Attorney Sigler present for the final approval of the contract, Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to table any decisions, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY BRIDGES:** County Engineer, Brandon Forrester, presented the Commissioners with an updated Bridge Replacement Plan for 2013-2017. Some of the bridge replacements were switched because of the Sufficiency Rating and the age of the bridge. Bridge #65 on Ruckman Road was switched to Bridge #69 on 650 East in the plan. Also there were seven three foot and larger culverts replaced throughout the County for 2013.

**IN THE MATTER OF GIS REQUEST:** Dan Weigold, GIS Coordinator, came before the Commissioners to explain how to implement House Bill #1219. The House Bill addresses the removal of names from the County website from the search engine on locating judges, police, and other personnel from the general public. Weigold has received four requests but at this time has not changed anything on the website. This is an unfunded mandate from the State that uses the language that the County "MAY" not "SHALL" when addressing the enforcement by the County. Weigold will meet later in the month with the Northeast User Group and see how each County is managing the change.

**IN THE MATTER OF 2013 COUNTY TAX SALE:** Laurell Hodges, County Treasurer, reported the outcome of the 2013 Tax Sale held on October 15, 2013. Forty-three properties were eligible for the sale and twenty-nine property liens were sold. The revenue from the Tax Sale was \$344,902.56, \$68,857.94 in back taxes and \$276,044.62 in Surplus. There were nine different buyers' five individuals from within the County and four Investment firms.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** Minutes from the October 7, 2013 meeting were reviewed. After corrections were noted, a motion by Rethlake to approve was made seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claims disbursements for October 21, 2013 were reviewed by Commissioner Amber. After discussion a motion was made by Rethlake to approve the claims, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE WOOD LAND LAKES BOARD:** Stanley Crum, the Commissioner's appointment to the Board, gave his update on the Wood Lake and Lakes current meeting. Mr. Crum gave the Commissioners' the minutes, the treasurer's report and updated them on the financial highlights and investment committees. He also "thanked" the Commissioners for their continued support of the organization and on their work to preserve land for farmers throughout the district.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR:** Pam Smith presented a Request to Use County Facilities for the Veteran's Marathon Group from Friday November 8 through Sunday, November 10, 2013. There will be tents, tables and vendors' set-up on the west side of the Court House lawn and electricity will be needed. After discussion a motion by Amber to approve the request, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF SAFETY COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Rethlake updated the other Commissioners on the County Safety Committee. New evacuation maps will be posted on all County buildings and the actual doors will be numbered for law enforcement in case of an emergency to be used for reference. Next Spring a fire extinguisher class will be given for individuals at all County locations. An issue of safety from the Highway Department on the trimming of trees, discussion to rent a bucket truck with railing or use contracted services to trim necessary road banks in the future will be addressed at a later time.

**IN THE MATTER OF SDI SIGNS:** Commissioner Amber stated that the signs directing semi-trailers to and from Steel Dynamics will be billed directly to SDI for payment and the County Highway Department will be installing them on the roadways.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW:** Commissioner Schrupf discussed the payment of \$666 to NACO for the 2014 dues and what Whitley County really receives from NACO as a member. After further discussion a motion by Amber to not pay the 2014 NACO membership, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 2/1 vote with Rethlake casting the nay vote. A letter will be sent out to the local High Schools requesting a date and time for the County Commissioners to hold a meeting at each location for the Government classes to attend and ask questions. The new sign for the Land Accuracy Award from AIC will be placed on a road way not on the front of the Government Center after approval from INDOT. Lab Corp wants to rent space in the Immunization Clinic to perform blood draws for citizens of Whitley County. April Waugh, Immunization Nurse, was not present so the subject was tabled for further review.

**IN THE MATTER OF JAIL PLUMBING:** Commissioner Schrupf reported from the Maintenance department that the plumbing at the jail has corrosion. There is a sodium silicate injection that can be used to coat and clean the pipes. Right now we have two quotes from Redman Plumbing \$3632 and HPE- Heat Power Engineering \$3483 for this application. No further discussion on this matter at this time.

**IN THE MATTER OF 2014/2015 CEDIT PLAN:** Chairman Schrupf submitted his recommendations for the two year CEDIT plan the 2014 appropriations are as follows

- Project #1 Economic Development Corp \$162,857
- Project #2 GIS Projects \$25,000
- Project #3 On-Site/Off-Site Improvements \$250,000
- Project #4 Council on Aging \$25,000
- Project #5 County Highway Truck \$150,000
- Project #6 County Website \$8,000
- Project #7 Whitley County Humane Society \$25,000
- Project #8 Community Corrections Building \$78,000
- Project #9 Courthouse Repairs \$115,559

Commissioner Schrupf also noted that the lease for the new 9-1-1 equipment from J & K could also be paid for out of this fund if needed. The other Commissioners will review and the final recommendations will be presented to the County Council for approval.

**IN THE MATTER OF AMBULANCES:** Parkview has requested the County integrate the Parkview logo onto the ambulances in Whitley County. This will amend the current contract with Parkview to allow the 2X3 green logo. After discussion a motion to allow was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 2/1 vote with Amber casting the nay vote.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Auditor McGuire now has all the Commissioner's meeting minutes available on the County website after the change in the maintenance. Commissioner Amber will compose the Commissioner's Report for the local papers this time. The Press Release for the open appointment to the County Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals has been advertised. The September Vehicle Inventory report was submitted by Sheriff Hodges for review. Michael Barton gave an update on the Highway department. The County Health Fair will be Friday November 8, 2013. Commissioner Rethlake reported there will need to be work done at the Community Corrections building for damage done to the sidewalls. At this time they are getting quotes. JoAnn Null, from the Public, feels more interaction with the schools is needed on how County Government works, positions, responsibilities and where to go for needs should be taught in the Government classes at the High School level.

With no further input from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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George Schrumpf, Chairman

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Don Amber, Vice Chairman

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Tom Rethlake

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