

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 13, 2014

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a postponed session due to the Snow Emergency last week on Monday, January 13 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 County Attorney Dan Sigler, Auditor Jennifer McGuire, County Coordinator- Pam Smith, Blane Bowlin- Tyler, Tim Blake, Gene Heckman, Rita Sauders- Assessor, Richard Schultz- Accurate Assessments, Otto Boschet, Marcus Gatton- Chief Deputy, Sheriff Mark Hodges, Erik Mollbert, Cathy Broxon-Ball, Michael Barton, Katie Wagner – Busco News and Christy Workman – Post & Mail.

Chairman Schrupf opened the meeting with the pledge.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2014 OFFICERS: In the election of officers for the Whitley County Commissioners for 2014, Rethlake made a motion that the officers remain the same, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The results are Chairman- George Schrupf, Vice- Chair- Don Amber and Member- Tom Rethlake.

IN THE MATTER OF THE BRIDGE CONTRACT: The final State Contract with INDOT for the reimbursement of bridge inspections was presented by Brandon Forrester. Attorney Sigler was not present to review the Contract if approved by the Commissioners to sign. After discussion of the Contract being from the State and that all the other 92 counties were alike, a motion by Commissioner Amber to go ahead with the Contract, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. This process will help with the State Contract still requiring five more signatures from State offices and the consultant, Engineering Resources will not have to wait. The total reimbursement from the State for Whitley County will be \$78,904.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY UPDATE: Michael Barton wanted to give a brief review of 2013 for the Commissioners. Two of the larger projects completed were Lincolnway West and County Line. Barton commented that all the 2014 bids and quotes pricing look good and he will report back to the Commissioners at their next meeting. The new Highway truck is still at WA Jones waiting to be completed. Lynn Weirick retired from the Highway, and will not be replaced until June 2014; the two part-time workers will be used for the plowing of subdivisions when it snows this Winter.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: County attorney Dan Sigler has sent the paperwork to the State for them to sign the "Right of Refusal" on both the Tri-Lakes Park property and the Camp Samaritan property. Now the County will have to wait. Attorney Sigler stated if the State does not sign off on the properties they should go ahead and deed the ground back to the State at that time. Attorney Sigler gave the status on the ongoing class action suit filed by Bickel for allegedly detaining after being arrested for more than 48 hours before being taken to court. Two Hundred and Forty-three other members have joined the Class Action suit against Whitley County as a violation of civil rights. This will be mediated on Thursday December 5, 2013. Attorney Sigler will contact other surrounding counties and check on the status of what they have been advised. The new 2014 County Attorney contract will be reviewed by the Commissioners for approval at the next meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Minutes from the November 18, 2013 Commissioner's meeting were reviewed, Amber made a motion to approve with changes made to the CEDIT vote as 2/1 with Rethlake voting against the plan from the Minutes. Rethlake seconded the motion but wanted to clarify he wasn't against the entire CEDIT Plan just Project #7 for the Humane Society until they present their financials as requested by the Commissioners, the vote to approve the Minutes carried 3/0. The disbursements of claims for December 2, 2013 were reviewed by Commissioner Schrupf. After discussion a motion to allow the claims was made by Rethlake, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMITS: A Utility Permit was submitted by CenturyLink to bury cable on County Road 600 East north of State Road 14 for a length of 400 feet. After discussion of a new company at that location a motion to approve was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Next Utility Permit was from the Columbia City Municipal Water Utility to bury a water main on County Road 100 South approximately 1000' east of US #30. A motion to allow the work was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR: Pam Smith reminded the Commissioners of the Employee Recognition Luncheon on Friday December 13, 2013 from 11am to 1pm with awards being distributed starting at 12 noon. This will be an Annual Event honoring employees

with increments of 5 years of service 5-10-15-20-25 years, etc. Two Requests to use County Facilities were presented. The first is from Whitley County Day of Prayer for Thursday May 1, 2014 from 11:30 to 2pm from Pastor Russell Riley. A motion to allow the use was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second request was for the use of the Court House gazebo and lawn for a marriage on Saturday July 19, 2014 for Coonrod Wedding. After discussion of the date being a Saturday and not a Friday a motion to allow was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DECEMBER MEETING: The December 16, 2013 Commissioner Meeting will be held at the Whitley County High School Auditorium. Brochures will be passed out to the Government class prior to the meeting and the students will submit questions regarding County Government.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Deputy Gatton requested to be moved to the December 16 Commissioner meeting to review some information before purchasing deputy cars for 2014. The reports in the packets showed the mpg for the last three years of Sheriff's vehicles. Auditor McGuire gave the status of the Fall tax collection and reported the Fall distribution is expected to be on Friday December 20, 2013 for the County. Commissioner Rethlake gave an update on the new heating units being replaced at Community Corrections. The County cell phone usage is still being reviewed. The Mayor's & Commissioner's Caucus will be held December 18, 2013. Cost of plumbing replacement at the Jail is still being reviewed for some comparison pricing.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

George Schrupf, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor