

# WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

April 3, 2018

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Thor Hodges, Vice Chairman Chad Banks, Kim Wheeler, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, John Barrett and William Overdeer. Others in attendance were Commissioner George Schrupf, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Timothy Kumfer, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library and Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office.

Chairman Thor Hodges called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION:** Scott Wagner from the Health Department informed the Council that they have received a grant for the opioid crisis. He is requesting an additional appropriation in order to spend the funding they received for the grant in the amount of \$2,500.00. Council member Wheeler made a motion to approve the request, seconded by LaRue with discussion. Scott explained that the Health Department is using these funds to host two parent universities meetings and to partner with the schools and Parkview to raise awareness for the opioid crisis. Studies have shown that the issues with opioids start with age 15 and older. After this discussion, the motion to approve the additional appropriation passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY UPDATE:** Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Council that the department is working on the road plan and the road plan will be for the next five years. They are planning to work on 100 miles of road this year. Due to the winter the County had, they used a lot of material and man hours so Brandon will be asking for an additional appropriation at the May Council meeting for salt and overtime. Brandon and the Commissioners have had discussions about constructing a salt storage facility. There were a few options that he has looked into and the first and best option is to build a treated timber storage building. The second option would be a tarp and the third option would be a regular pole building. The current place where the salt is stored would become another area that equipment would be stored that is now sitting outside. In regard to the roundabout on County Line Road and Liberty Mills, Brandon stated that he will be paying that invoice out of Local Road and Street. This should have been paid a few years ago but the County was never invoiced for the work being done. The roofs on the Highway department buildings also need worked on and there is \$60,000 in the budget to do so. Brandon stated that he will be requesting to add a position to the Highway Department. The position will be the Drainage Project Assistant which will assist with drainage matters but will also be an Operator. He will be attending the May Council meeting to inform them of these requests.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE EXTENSION OFFICE UPDATE:** Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office gave an update to the Council. She went over all of their programs such as NEPAC (Northeast Purdue Agricultural Center) Field Day, Junior Leaders, 4-H Volunteers, Extension Homemakers, PARP (Pesticide Applicator Recertification Program), Nutrition Education, Captain Cash, ServSafe and Master Gardeners. In 2017 Swine was the largest 4-H project with 179 youth participating. There were 32 youth that tried out the new projects in 2017 of Aquatic Science, BBQ Grilling, Recycling and shooting sports. So far 806 youth are enrolled in the Whitley County 4-H program for 2018. The program has 149 adult volunteers for 2018 as well. Cindy informed the Commissioners that they had many learning events in 2017. They had a total of 6,406 direct contacts last year and 770 consultations along with providing the public with 140 news releases.

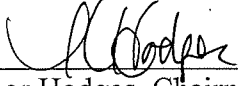
**COMMISSIONERS REPORT:** Commissioner Schrupf gave a report from the Commissioners meeting:

- Commissioner Schrupf gave an update to the Council in regard to the internet service being provided to the TIF area and some rural areas in the County. There is an agreement that is being reviewed at this time with Indiana Fiber Network and the cost will be approximately \$80,000.00 from CEDIT. This project will start in June and they will begin the work around US 30.
- In regard to the County's health insurance trust account, the Commissioners voted to take \$150,000 from the account to finish paying off the health loan the County has and it will be paid off April 16, 2018.
- The next Personnel Committee meet is either April 23<sup>r</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. They will be looking at one department at a time and create a structure for wages. Mike Frizell gave the Committee a salary range for positions and stated that the "fluff" needs to be removed from the job descriptions.

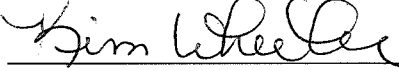
**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the March 6, 2018 were tabled until the next meeting.

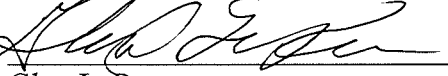
There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

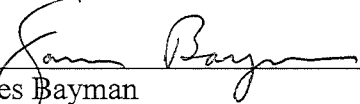
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Thor Hodges, Chairman

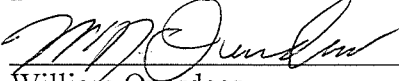
  
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Chad Banks, Vice Chairman

  
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Kim Wheeler

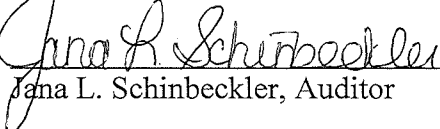
  
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Glen LaRue

  
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James Bayman

  
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John Barrett

  
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William Overdeer

Attest:

  
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Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor