

## WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

June 5, 2018

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, June 5, 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 Schrumpf, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator/Human Resource Director Angela Campbell, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, County Clerk Debbie Beers, Jason Meyer and Tara Smith from Passages, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter, EDC President Jon Myers, Tim Kumfer, John Woodmansee from Purdue Extension and County Prosecutor DJ Sigler.

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST:** County Prosecutor DJ Sigler presented two requests to the Council. The first request was for the Drug Enforcement Grant. The Drug Task Force has been very active this year with the increase in meth and heroin. Due to the success of the program, additional funds are needed for the confidential funds. They had an unusual circumstance recently when they made a drug arrest, a gentlemen had approximately \$10,000 on his person and the Prosecutor filed a civil lawsuit against this gentlemen and deposited the \$10,000 into the drug enforcement grant fund. The funds are deposited into this fund to replenish what they have spent to purchase illegal drugs. After the civil lawsuit, they forfeited half of the \$10,000 and were able to keep \$5,000. He needs this additional appropriation to cover this expense due to it being an unknown expenditure. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$10,000 to fund 8503, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote. The second request was for a transfer. The Prosecutor's Office would like to hire an employee part time to sort through files which will be a three to four month project. They are going to hire an individual through Peoplelink and need to transfer funds from Operating Supplies to Contracted Services in the amount of \$5,000.00. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the request, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE INCREASE FOR FIELD OFFICER:** Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter made a request to the Council for her Field Officer that is paid by a grant to increase the salary of the Field Officer to include the annual \$1,730 raise that other County employees received for 2018. However, this salary change would be effective July 1, 2018 and she is asking to appropriate the funds from her User Fees. The Department of Corrections granted to fund the position but did not include any raises. Amy requested an additional appropriation for \$1,000.00 to cover the increase through the end of the salary ordinance. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the request for \$1,000.00, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PART TIME POSITION:** Debbie Beers, Clerk of the Circuit Court, stated that she currently has a job opening in her office due to an employee transferring to Superior Court. She is requesting a temporary part time position through the end of the year to help get the duties of this position completed. The line item that will now be unused through the end of the year, Debbie would like to transfer \$12,000 from this line item to a part time line item to pay the part time person through the end of the year. At the beginning of 2019, the new Clerk will have the option to fill the position. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Banks and carried with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE NURSE PAY FUND CHANGE FOR 2019:** Scott Wagner from the Health Department came before the Council to request their Public Health Nurse that is currently paid partially through grants, to be completely paid out of the Health fund for 2019. They need the grant funds for a contracted part time position that does health education for schools, Council on Aging and other areas within the County. The Public Health Nurse mostly does home visits for elderly patients and also goes to Miller's Merry Manor twice a week. She also does the chemical disease tracking such as STDs, rabies, tuberculosis, etc. Scott stated that this is for informational purposes only.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FUND ORDINANCE:** County Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester is requesting the creation of a new fund from the Council. The ordinance is now completed to create Fund 4176 for the Highway Department. The revenue sources that would be deposited into this new fund would be basically everything except the Motor Vehicle Highway funds. This is to allow the Highway Department to track the Motor Vehicle Highway funds since 50% of it has to be used on the construction, reconstruction and preservation of County roads. They have to be able to verify and justify the expenses towards the 50% quota. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-02 to establish Fund 4176, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote. Brandon also gave the Council an update on the salt storage barn. He stated that they received one bid for the barn and

there are a set of plans. He is working on construction specs and the site plan. He anticipates to receive bids for the construction part of this project on July 16, 2018.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ABATEMENT REQUEST & ANNUAL EDC UPDATE:** Economic Development Corporation President Jon Myers gave a request for a tax abatement to the Council. Michael Kinder & Sons would construct a new building for a new company at Park 30. This is an orthopedics manufacturer that is looking to build a new research and development facility. The company was referred to the EDC by Brian Emerick, President of Micropulse. Micropulse is currently a supplier for this company and this project would provide further operational synergies between Micropulse and the company and thereby benefit one of our leading employers. This building would be a 16,500 square foot office building to be constructed by PB Development and leased to the company on a triple net basis. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the abatement request for ten years per Resolution 2018-02, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote. Jon also gave an EDC update to the Council. He gave them a handout containing a recent update for the estimates of population growth of the Counties in northeast Indiana. We have a low unemployment rate of about 2.5% and the EDC is doing anything they can do to attract new people to the County to come live here and work here. In regard to population growth, the County had one of the highest increases of 0.81% and the national average is 0.71%. That was also the highest rate of all of the eleven counties within northeast Indiana.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PASSAGES UPDATE:** Jason Meyer, the President of Passages, gave an update and a request to the Council. Passages' mission is passionately leading and assisting people with disabilities into a thriving and meaningful life. They work with adults and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Jason gave the Council a packet for Passages' 2017 annual report. In the last year, they have really grown their arts program with Bridge 333 Art Studio. He explained to the Council where the \$35,000 that the County contributes to Passages is used. Passages has fourteen vehicles, three group homes in Whitley County, which are fully staffed and a cargo van at each of the houses. There are seven additional mini vans and six of those are used to transport people to and from different community outings, employment and community volunteer opportunities. Due to the increase in costs of various aspects of their transportation, Jason is requesting that the Council budget \$40,000 for 2019 instead of \$35,000. This amount is budgeted in the Commissioner's budget so Council recommended to Jason to go before the Commissioners.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE EXTENSION UPDATE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMMING:** John Woodmansee gave an update to the Council on the Agricultural and Natural Resources Programming within the County. He reviewed the General ANR Programs, Traditional Ag, Diversified Farming and Food Systems, Horticulture/Master Gardeners and Forestry/Natural Resources. John does weekly news articles and the current readership is potentially around 50,719. The Traditional Ag consists of Private Applicator Recertification Programs, Pork Producers, NE Purdue Ag Center, Grain Marketing, Sheep/Goat Webinar, Indiana Beef Cattle Association and a Succession Planning Workshop. The Diversified Farming and Food System consist of Michiana Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Growers Meeting and the Transitioning to Organic Production. There is also the Master Gardener Basic Training and there were 7,677 contacts in regard to this program. The Forestry Management/Timber Marketing Program had 19 attendees.

**IN THE MATTER OF ABATEMENTS:** Auditor Schinbeckler stated that she has reviewed the abatements for real property and personal property for businesses within Whitley County. She recommends that the Council approve the abatements and give the Chairman permission to sign the abatements. They are available in the Auditor's Office for anyone's review. Council member Bayman made a motion to allow the Chairman to review, approve and sign the abatements, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 6/1 vote with Hodges voting against.

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

- Commissioner Schrupf reported to the Council that Brandon presented the Commissioners with the bid for the salt storage barn and the Commissioners took it under advisement and will give final approval to the bid at their next meeting.
- The County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder was able to collect a large amount in back taxes for the Wheeler property, approximately \$65,000.
- The Personnel Committee met and even though Michael Frizzell from MDFHR Consulting gave us a report that showed all salaries are within the range of where they need to be, it does not provide the Personnel Committee with a classification system to refactor positions. The Personnel Committee made a recommendation to move forward with Waggoner Irwin and Scheele to create a compensation plan. The amount of the contract with Waggoner Irwin and Scheele will be \$44,460.00 and the Commissioners gave their approval of the contract and to pay it out of CEDIT funds. It will take them about six to eight months to complete the process of going through each job description within the County. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the payment to Waggoner Irwin and Scheele out of CEDIT funds, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The Council reviewed the May 9, 2018 minutes, Council member LaRue made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Banks and carried with a 7/0 vote.


**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Council member Barrett brought up the request for funding from the Bowen Center for 2019. They are requesting \$213,690.00 and stated he has been frustrated that the Council still does not exactly understand what the funds are used for. Commissioner Schrupf stated that because of HIPPA laws, they are not able to disclose much information. He stated that they are looking to see if the County can use those funds for the mental health issues in the Jail rather than giving the funds to the Bowen Center. Council member Bayman publicly thanked State Trooper Joe McLaughlin because he went beyond the call of duty in a traffic accident and they appreciate his efforts. The Council also reviewed the budget calendar for 2019 and they did not make any changes to the schedule. Auditor Schinbeckler reported that the State sent out the estimated local income tax amount for 2019 and it is an increase of \$2,403,307.

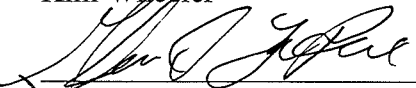
There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

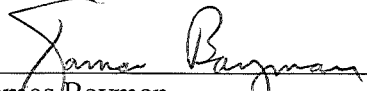
**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

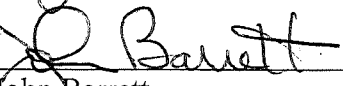
  
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Thor Hodges, Chairman

  
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Chad Banks, Vice Chairman

  
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Kim Wheeler

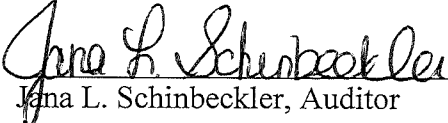
  
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Glen LaRue

  
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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

