

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 21, 2020

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 1:00 PM in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Don Amber, Vice Chairman Thomas Western and Commissioner George Schruppf. Others in attendance were Attorney Matt Shipman, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Commissioner's Assistant Jennifer Shinabery, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Stanley Crum, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, Chief Deputy Treasurer Kay Gatton, Sheriff Gatton, Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Councilman Tim Kumfer, Becky Salaway from Whitley County Council on Aging, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Joan Null Cheryl Wagers from Stable Acres and Planning Director Nathan Bilger.

Chairman Schruppf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Shipman briefly discussed the point of sale ordinance for failing septic systems within the County. He has decided to do a disclosure statement for each home sold regarding their septic systems. Shipman also stated that there will not be a sewer meeting this month.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2020 COUNTY ATTORNEY CONTRACT: Attorney Shipman presented his contract for 2020 and the amount is \$180 per hour. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the County Attorney contract for 2020, seconded by Schruppf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 4TH QUARTER VOUCHER APPROVAL: Becky Salaway from Whitley County Council on Aging presented the 4th quarter voucher for approval to the Commissioners. Commissioner Schruppf made a motion to approve the voucher and for the Chairman to sign, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SALES DISCLOSURE TOPIC, AUTOMOBILE REPAIRS & CLEAN UP PROPERTIES: Scott Wagner from the Health Department stated that he spoke with several realtors, attorney firms, etc. and their opinion was that it would be a lot for the County to take on if the Commissioners decided to enforce an ordinance for septic systems within the County at this time. This is the reason Scott has decided to recommend that the Commissioners require sellers to fill out a sales disclosure form to the buyers when it comes to the septic systems. Commissioner Amber asked if Scott and Attorney Shipman would work together on this and create an ordinance to present to the Commissioners at a later date. Commissioner Schruppf made a motion to table the sales disclosure topic/ordinance, seconded by Western and tabled with a 3/0 vote. Scott also sent out a letter to all of the automobile places in Columbia City for repairs to see if the County took all of our vehicles to one company if they would offer discounts. He has only received one email back so far on this matter. Regarding the cleanup properties, in the matter of the house at 750 N 350 W, definitely needs torn down and demolished. It is now in the courts hands and Scott is awaiting a decision. It was determined that there were rats on the property as well by Orkin. The other property for cleanup on 920 W Sheckler Road in Columbia City. Scott informed the Commissioners that he would be sending out bids for that cleanup soon.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Commissioners that he reviewed all of the 2020 annual bids for the Highway Department. His recommendation to the Commissioners is to accept all bids except the fixed price fuel bids. Commissioner Western made a motion to accept all 2020 annual Highway bids except for the fixed fuel price bids, seconded by Schruppf and passed with a 3/0 vote. Brandon then presented the financial commitment letter to the Commissioners for the two Community Crossings grant projects that he is applying for. The first project will approximately be \$281,839.95 cost to the County and the second project will be \$104,496.40 cost to the County. Commissioner Schruppf made a motion to approve the commitment letters for the Community Crossings grant and for the Chairman to sign them, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. Brandon presented a notice to bidders for one 4-wheel drive loader to the Commissioners for approval. This was part of his equipment purchase plan. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the notice to bidders and allow Brandon to receive bids, seconded by Schruppf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: The Commissioners reviewed two right-of-way permits. The first permit was from Precision Utilities Group for 4690 W Lincolnway to bore under the road to provide service at the owner's request. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Schruppf and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second permit request was from Nipsco for 3999 N 50 W to install gas service for a customer. Commissioner Schruppf made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

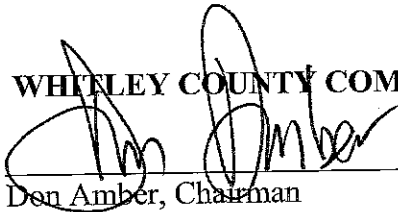
IN THE MATTER OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE ANNUAL MEETING: The Commissioners suspended the regular Commissioner meeting to hold the Board of Financial annual meeting. After the meeting was adjourned, Chairman Amber reconvened the regular Commissioner meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: After reviewing the payroll claims, Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from January 6, 2020 through January 21, 2020 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The minutes from the January 6, 2020 bid opening were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The commissioners then reviewed the January 6, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library informed the Commissioners that she is actively seeking an appointment to the Library Board from the Commissioners to replace Mr. Langeloh who can no longer serve because he has served his max 16 years. Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented a quote form SDS Communications to the Commissioners to upgrade the video system in the basement in Meeting Rooms A & B. The audio system has been replaced previously but the video system has yet to be upgraded. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion for a favorable pass to Council for approval, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Amber adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM.

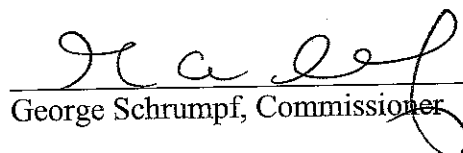
WHELELY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



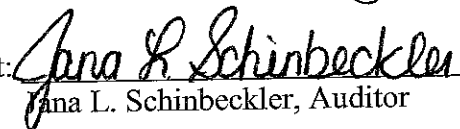
Don Amber, Chairman



Thomas Western, Vice Chairman



George Schrumpf, Commissioner

Attest: 

Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor