

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 3, 2020

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, February 3, 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 Schrupf. 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, Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Gatton, Abbi Carron from the Humane Society of Whitley County, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Sonya Emerick, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Mark Cullnane from the Planning Department, Denita Patrick, Joel Goodman from RQAW, Trinna Keener from Churubusco FFA, Devyn Gaff from Churubusco FFA, Mallory Johnson from the Churubusco FFA, Maggie Johnson from the Churubusco FFA, Phil Allen from the Churubusco FFA, Jim Christie from Performance Services, Theresa Green, Dan Hile from Smith Green Community Schools, County Assessor Kim Erdly, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, Kelley Sheiss, Chad Banks and Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant.

Chairman Schrupf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Shipman stated that he reviewed and approves the capital asset ordinance that the Auditor prepared. This is to accurately reports assets each year to State Board of Accounts for the Annual Financial report. Shipman also informed the Commissioners that he has the resolution for Council to review, approve and sign to obtain appraisals for a piece of land the Commissioners would like to purchase.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHURUBUSCO FFA LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM PROCLAMATION: The Commissioners presented a proclamation to the Churubusco FFA Livestock Judging team that won a National Contest recently. The Commissioners stated that they are very proud to have them represent our County and appreciate their hard work and dedication.

IN THE MATTER OF THE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES: Sheriff Gatton was present to inform the Commissioners of a grant opportunity that he would like to pursue. The grant is the COPS Hiring Program which can be used for the hiring of new officers or rehire of officers. The grant provides 75% of the approved entry-level salaries and fringe benefits of each newly hired and/or rehired full-time officer, up to \$125,000 per officer position, over a three year grant period. The application deadline for the grant is March 11, 2020. Commissioner Western made a favorable pass to Council to allow the Sheriff to apply for this grant, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CAPITAL ASSET POLICY ORDINANCE: Attorney Shipman and Auditor Schinbeckler presented the capital asset policy ordinance to the Commissioners. This ordinance is to establish the threshold for what the County reports on the Annual Financial report for assets each year. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-02, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY CONTRACT: Abbi Carroll, Director of Operations for the Whitley County Human Society was present to request the approval of the 2020 memorandum of understanding and to request \$25,000 for 2020. She shared the 2019 accomplishments of the Humane Society as well with the Commissioners. Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for 2020 and to pay the Humane Society \$25,000 for the year, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE POLLING LOCATIONS: The polling locations for the primary election were presented to the Commissioners for approval. Once the Commissioners approve the polling locations, the Clerk will advertise the locations in the newspapers. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the polling locations, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE RFQ'S FOR COMP PLAN: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented three different request for quotes to the Commissioners for the comprehensive plan. The first one came from Planning Next in Columbus, Ohio. The second quote came from the Taylor Design Group in Indianapolis, IN and the third came from American Structurepoint in Indianapolis, IN. Commissioner Western made a motion to take the quotes under advisement, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

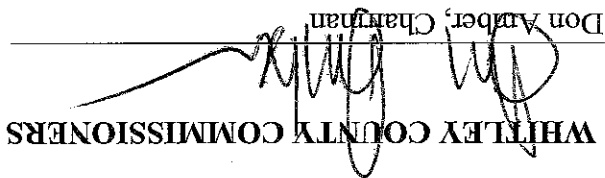
IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Commissioners that he has applied for the Community Crossings grant. He is also currently working on the Highway's annual financial report and the annual drainage fees for collection. Brandon stated that he has also resolved the drainage issue at Donatello's Village and RL McCoy is currently fixing the issue.

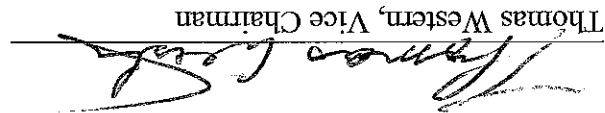
IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: After reviewing the payroll claims, Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Schruppf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from January 21, 2020 through February 3, 2020 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner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

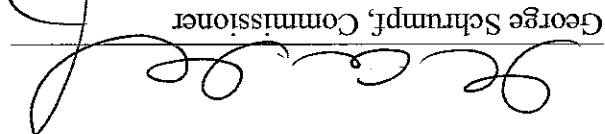
IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Amber stated that Wednesday, February 5th that there will be a public hearing on the County being ADA compliant between 5:00 and 7:00 PM. Planning Director Nathan Bilger also informed the public that there is a steering committee and scoring criteria for the comprehensive plan.

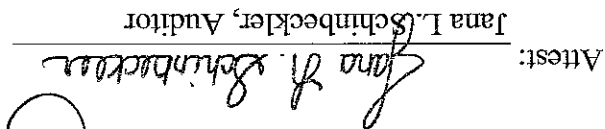
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Amber adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Don Amber, Chairman


Thomas Western, Vice Chairman


George Schruppf, Commissioner

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor