



## **Whitley County Commissioners**

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### **WHITLEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT PROACTIVE TO COVID-19 Don Amber, Chairman**

In February of 2020 it became apparent to the Whitley County Commissioners that the Corona Virus threat would perhaps be a real threat. The Commissioners were kept aware of the potential thanks to the diligent work of the Whitley County Board of Health. The Board of Health continues to keep the Commissioners informed of the day to day situation.

Never in a million years did we believe that we'd have a county death due to the corona virus but unfortunately, we have.

From the beginning all three Commissioners agreed that Whitley County Government would not totally shut down. We held numerous meetings with department heads and encouraged them to decide for the own department how staffing should be handled knowing that we would be divided into three areas, those working in their normal offices, those working from home, and those that would be getting the time off with the request to "hunker down" and be ready to replace anyone that became sick in their departments.

The Commissioners are very proud of our county employees at the way they understood and did a marvelous job of keeping offices open with a skeleton staff. Technology played a huge part in our decisions because we realized that our constituents could and would communicate with us without being face to face.

Our initial plan, and remains in place today, states that we will continue our reduced office staffing through the month of April. It is our fervent hope that we will be able to have all employees back in their departments in May but that remains to be seen. Our recent information shows that "the curve is flattening" in Whitley County.

Until we're told differently, we will continue to be diligent in our decisions to keep our employees and the citizens of Whitley County informed and safe. Please continue to maintain social distancing, wash your hands and avoid touching your face.

The current Commissioners, Don Amber Chairman, Tom Western Vice-Chairman, and George Schrupf will continue to put the safety of our employees and the residents of Whitley County foremost in our thoughts, prayers, and actions.