

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 16, 2020

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 16, 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 Schrumpf. Others in attendance were Attorney Matt Shipman, Commissioner's Assistant Jennifer Shinabery, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Sheriff Gatton, Chief Deputy Spencer, WC Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, County Assessor Kim Erdly, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Tony Helfrich, Bill Brice, Jeremy Brice, Jared Hesting, Sean Martin, Brandon Coffelt from Cidermill Propane, Ron Glassley, Theresa Green, Kelley Sheiss, Stanley Crum, Mary Hartman from Peabody Library, Jim Christie and Brandon Rittenhouse.

Chairman Amber opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Shipman stated that he has a policy that he was looking over and would come back to at the end of the meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF STANLEY CRUM: Stanley Crum was present to give an update for Woodland Lakes. He stated that Jeff Conrad was added to the board as an at large member, not tied to any county. Stanley gave the amount for donations in 2019 totaling \$31,129.04. Expenses for 2019 were down from previous years because of losing the part-time office help. The expense total was \$5,225.33 leaving a difference of \$25,903.71. They will be keeping the excess so that when they hire another part-time office person the funds will be available.

IN THE MATTER OF RUPLEY REZONING AND CIDERMILL PROPANE- Nathan Bilger from the Planning and Building Department presented two re-zonings to the Commissioners, one being for Cidermill Propane and one being for Rupley. Both received a favorable pass from the plan commission. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve both with a second by Commissioner Schrumpf, passing with a 3/0 vote. Nathan presented two plats to the Commissioners for approval. One being Hitzeman Estates Plat and the other Trabert Subdivision off of Keiser Rd. The Plan Commission has already given their approval for the plats. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the Hitzeman plat, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the Trabert Subdivision plat with a second by Schrumpf passing with a 3/0 vote. Nathan also is seeking a favorable pass to Council to use planningNEXT out of Ohio for the comprehensive plan. Schrumpf made a motion to give a favorable pass to Council with a second by Western, passing with a 3/0 vote.

Attorney Shipman has had a chance to review the County Policy for COVID-19 and has suggested to hold off on it until after the Governor speaks today at 2:30 pm.

Commissioner Schrumpf wanted to have Bill Brice come up and present the need to expand and get an additional 600 square feet in the building that they are renting from Reiff Enterprises for interrogations and interviews. Rent would go up from \$999.15/monthly to \$1,686.48/monthly. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve with the ok from attorney Shipman after he reviews the new lease agreement, seconded by Schrumpf. Passing with a 3/0 vote.

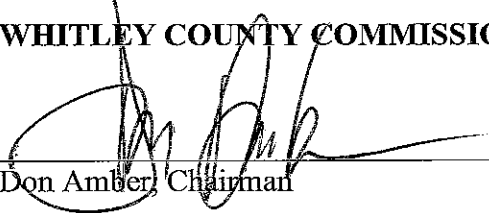
There were three ROW permits that were presented. The first two are for NIPSCO, one being at Raber Rd. and the other location is Lincolnway and 350 East. The 3rd is for BSM at E Business 30. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve all three ROW Permits with a second by Schrumpf. Passing with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Chairman Amber stated that he has reviewed all payroll and accounts payable 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 March 2, 2020 through March 16, 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 commissioners reviewed the March 2, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

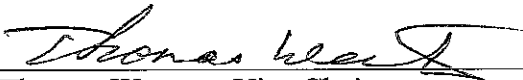
County Treasurer Laurell and County Assessor Kim wanted to know more information on what the Commissioners are going to implement with the public access to the Government Center. Commissioners agreed that we need to send notice with the tax bills that we are wanting to limit the public coming in to pay their bills and ask questions of our offices. The Commissioners want to again wait until after the Governor speaks to make any discussions.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Amber adjourned the meeting at 2:05 PM.


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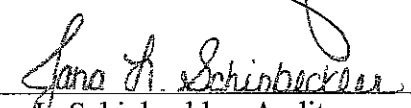
Don Amber, Chairman



Thomas Western, Vice Chairman



George Schrupf, Commissioner

Attest: 

Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor