

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 15, 2020

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, June 15, 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, Commissioner's Assistant Jennifer Shinabery, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, County Assessor Kim Erdly, Donald Schwartz, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Josh Petit from Nexus Group, Cheryl Wagers, Carlee LaRue from the Health Department, Frederick Warner and Donald Schmautz.

Chairman Amber opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE BID OPENING FOR THE ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT/CYCLICAL REASSESSMENT BIDS:** Commissioner Amber announced that the Commissioners received one bid from Nexus Group. The total amount of the bid is \$250,000 or \$125,000 annually. Attorney Shipman informed the Commissioners that they can approve the bid because they only received one bid. Attorney Shipman has already reviewed the contract and gives his approval. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the Nexus Group bid, seconded by Schruppf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:** Attorney Shipman informed the Commissioners and the public that there will be a regular Regional Sewer District meeting this week.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE AUTO LEASE AGREEMENT AND CONTRACT:** Attorney Shipman presented the auto lease agreement to the Commissioners between them and Whitley County Council on Aging. The agreement states that Council on Aging is to have a hold harmless in place and to enforce that Council on Aging is responsible for the insurance of their vehicles. Commissioner Schruppf made a motion to approve the auto lease agreement and for the Chairman to sign, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REZONING ORDINANCE AND CERTIFICATION FOR WARNER PLAT:** Planning Director Nathan Bilger was present to request a plat on behalf of Warner Holdings and to rezone a specific parcel from AG Agriculture and GC General Commercial. The rezoning and plat were presented to the Plan Commission and it received a 6/2 vote. This parcel is located along US 24 and CR 800 East and they intend to construct mini warehouses on the parcel for storage. Donald Schwartz lives in the housing addition beside this parcel and expressed his concerns with the rezoning and what the parcel will be used for. After discussion, Commissioner Schruppf made a motion to approve the Warner Farm plat as presented, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners then reviewed the rezoning request. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the rezoning per Ordinance 2020-06, seconded by Schruppf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF PLAT APPROVALS:** Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented the Suonards Reserve plat to the Commissioners. The Plan Commission has reviewed and approved the plat. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the plat, seconded by Schruppf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE POINT OF SALE ORDINANCE:** Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented an ordinance for regulating the disclosure of on-site sewage disposal systems for property transfers within Whitley County for approval. This ordinance requires the seller of a property to disclose the status of their sewage disposal system to the buyer. Commissioner Schruppf made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-07, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE EMPLOYEE WELLNESS COMMITTEE:** Carlee LaRue from the Health Department was present to represent the employee wellness committee. The wellness program Carlee is presenting provides County employees and their spouses the opportunity to earn points toward a yearly reward or monthly reduced premium. Employees must be on the County insurance to participate. In order to earn points, employees must complete the activities and challenges provided from December 1 – November 30 each year. Points must be completed and turned in before the deadline. Employees must earn 50 points for a 10% reduced premium and spouses must earn 30 points for a 5% reduced premium. Each year everyone is required to sign a waiver to participate and must get at least one point per month in order to remain active in the program. The two things employees are required to get is a physical and a blood draw. In order for participants to do this, it is \$57 per person. There is currently 111 employees who could participate in this program for a total cost of approximately \$6,327.00. Commissioner Schruppf made a motion for a favorable pass to Council, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Commissioners that INDOT has approved all of the requested Community Crossings projects for Whitley

County. Brandon also presented the 2021 budget estimates to the Commissioners. On County Road 800 East, NipSCO will be closing down the road for a period of time to fix a leaking valve. Brandon stated that the Highway Department will begin chip sealing in July.

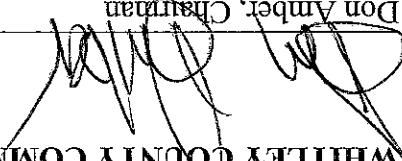
**IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS:** One right-of-way permit was presented to the Commissioners for approval. The right-of-way permit was from Duke Energy to set three poles and to go underground to an underground transformer on a customer's property in South Whitley. Commissioner Schrumptf made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

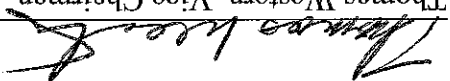
**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** Chairman Amber stated that he has reviewed all payroll and accounts payable claims. Commissioner Schrumptf made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from June 1, 2020 through June 15, 2020 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Schrumptf made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners also reviewed the June 1, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schrumptf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

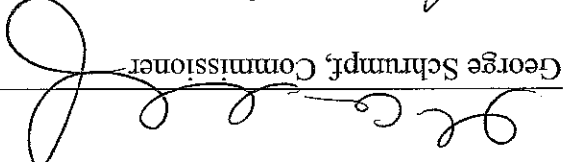
**IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS:** Auditor Schimbeckler presented the Whitley County confirmation letter from the Department of Child Services regarding the lease for the Annex building. The confirmation letter states that the lease commenced on February 1, 2020 and will expire on January 30, 2030. The lease will be \$6,000 per month and is not to exceed \$720,000 for the ten year period. Attorney Shipman stated the Commissioners have already approved the lease agreement so the Chairman just needs to sign the confirmation letter.

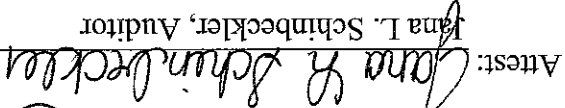
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Amber adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Don Amber, Chairman

  
Thomas Western, Vice Chairman

  
George Schrumptf, Commissioner

Attest:   
Jana L. Schimbeckler, Auditor