

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 17, 2020

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, August 17, 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, HR Director/Coordinator Jennifer Shinabery, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Emily Studebaker, Kim Kurtz-Seslar, Bob Fahl, Joe Lopez from Adlock Farms LLC, John Enrietto, Linda Hoffman, Linda Hite – Mills, Sonya Emerick, Brian Emerick, Jeremiah Blaugh, Bill Etzler, Dian Rice, Theresa Green, Tim Rivas, Allen Bushaw, Kerry Bushaw, Laurell, Schroeder and Planning Director Nathan Bilger.

Chairman Amber opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Shipman stated that he has reviewed several contracts and he approves of all of them.

IN THE MATTER OF THE REZONING 20-1-REZ-4: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented the Emerick rezoning request from AG to AGP to the Commissioners. Nathan stated that the Plan Commission did not give a favorable or non-favorable recommendation. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the rezoning with the stipulation that a Class 3 & 4 CAFO will not be allowed per Ordinance 2020-09, seconded by Western and passed with a 2/1 vote with Amber voting against. Nathan stated that they will proceed with a written commitment from the Emerick's. Nathan also mentioned his pending Plan Commission nominees. Commissioner Western made a motion to table the nominations for appointment until the first meeting in September, seconded by Schrumpf and tabled with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE WELL EXEMPTION REQUEST: Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented a well exemption request to the Commissioners from Corbin Well Drilling for a property located on Keiser Road. Commissioner Western made a motion to allow the well exemption request with a hold harmless agreement, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. Scott also gave the Commissioners an update on COVID-19 in Whitley County. He stated that testing is taking 5 to 21 days to get results and the tests are about 30% inaccurate.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOUTH WHITLEY LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT: The Commissioners reviewed the appointment request for Jessica Auer to be appointed to the South Whitley Library Board. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the appointment request, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETERSON CONSULTING ENGAGEMENT LETTER: Attorney Shipman and the Commissioners reviewed the Peterson Consulting Engagement letter. This letter is for Peterson Consulting to assist with the reporting of assets for the County's annual financial report. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the engagement letter and allow the Chair to sign, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE LOW TAX SOFTWARE CONTRACT: The Commissioners reviewed the LOW tax software contract for the Auditor and Treasurer's Office. Attorney Shipman has reviewed the contract and approves. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the LOW tax software contract, seconded by Schrumpf and carried 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 Schrumpf made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from August 3, 2020 through August 17, 2020 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners also reviewed the August 3, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: There were three right-of-way permits for the Commissioners review and approval. The first request was from M.C. Wheeler and Sons, Inc. to provide water supply to a customer's pole building on the opposite side of Morsches Road. Commissioner Western made a motion to table because the Highway Engineer did not give his approval due to needing a hold harmless agreement, seconded by Schrumpf and tabled with a 3/0 vote. The second request was from Geiger Farms to replace a private drainage tile on North 525 West. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. The last request was from US Signal Company to do some

work in various locations throughout the county. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUESTS TO USE COUNTY FACILITIES: The first request to use County facilities was from Theresa Green to use the Courthouse lawn for a Back the Blue event. The date requested would be Tuesday, August 25, 2020 from 5 to 8 PM. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second request was from Charlotte Blair to use the Courthouse lawn for the Dedication of Historical Marker on June 14, 2021 from 12 to 3 PM. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The third request was from Kelly Deacon to play Christmas songs on her ukulele for Santa's visitors by the Courthouse on Christmas Eve. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The last request was from Mitchell Hoffman to give away Bibles on the Courthouse lawn some Saturday's this fall and winter. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: The Commissioners explained to the public that they are looking into putting in a new entrance at the Courthouse that would be safer for the employees and the Courthouse security. They have pre-approval that it could be reimbursed by the CARES Act for COVID-19. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to purchase the new equipment for the Courthouse entrance to enhance security form CEDIT to be reimbursed by the CARES Act, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. This would include installing new doors and metal detectors. The window to the Courthouse would be made bulletproof as well. The Commissioners also presented a contract with Pyramid Corporation to conduct a broadband study throughout the County. The project would be funded by CEDIT and reimbursed by the CARES Act. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the project, 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 2:05 PM.

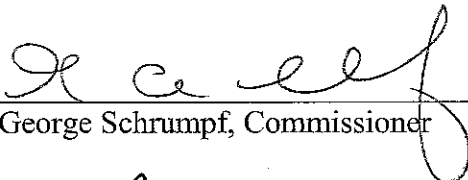
WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



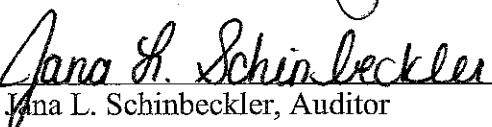
Don Amber, Chairman



Thomas Western, Vice Chairman



George Schrumpf, Commissioner

Attest: 

Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor