

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 21, 2020

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, September 21, 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, HR Director/Coordinator Jennifer Shinabery, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Alex Downard from MKS, County Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, County Assessor Kim Erdly, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Sonya Emerick and Joan Null.

Chairman Amber opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Shipman informed the Commissioners that he will be bringing a proposed contract for services to perform an income survey necessary to do an OCRA grant project for Coesse, Dunfee and South County Line Road for the Regional Sewer and Water District. Attorney Shipman also stated that he reviewed the Mercury Wireless contract for wireless internet in the County and asked their attorney to make some changes in the contract. Commissioner Amber stated that his appointment to the Regional Sewer and Water District is expiring soon and stated that the Commissioners need to appoint someone. Commissioner Amber recommended that the Commissioners appoint Rudy Wilfong to the Regional Sewer and Water District Board. Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to appoint Rudy Wilfong to the Regional Sewer District Board, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schrupf then made a motion to table the Mercury Wireless contract until the next meeting, seconded by Western and tabled with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPROVAL OF POLLING LOCATION: County Clerk Cindy Doolittle was present to request the approval of the polling locations for the 2020 General Election. 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 HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester gave an update on the Community Crossings projects within the County. The gravel road conversion projects are complete.

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 Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from September 8, 2020 through September 21, 2020 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners also reviewed the September 8, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve the minutes with the spelling correction from "birning" to "berming", seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: There was only one right-of-way permit presented for approval to the Commissioners. This request was from Frontier Communications to provide services to a residence on N 950 E. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUESTS TO USE COUNTY FACILITIES: Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer presented four requests to use County facilities to the Commissioners. The first request was from the Columbia City Fire Department for their annual Christmas Candy handout on Christmas Eve using the Courthouse Main Floor and lawn. Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request was from JoAnn Bird for the Veterans Day Marathon. They would like to use the Courthouse lawn and put up a tent on the Northwest corner of the lawn from November 13th to November 16th. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The third request was from a couple wanting to use the Courthouse Gazebo for a wedding on October 17, 2020 at 2:00 PM. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 3/0 vote. The last request was from Pastor Tom Beers to use the Courthouse Gazebo on September 26th for a prayer service. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF 2021 SCHEDULE APPROVALS: The Commissioners reviewed the 2021 schedules. The first schedule they reviewed was the holiday schedule. Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve the holiday schedule, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second schedule they reviewed was the 4/2 holiday schedule. Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The next schedule they reviewed was the payroll schedule. Commissioner Western

made a motion to approve the payroll schedule, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners then reviewed the accounts payable schedule. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the accounts payable schedule, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The last schedule they review was their meeting schedule. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the 2021 meeting schedule, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Auditor Schinbeckler presented the CARES Act funding requests to the Commissioners for their approval. Request #1 was for \$42,162.13 which included PPE equipment and cleaning supplies. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve request #1 and for the Chair to sign, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. Request #2 was for \$17,037.08 which included IT expenses for employees working remotely. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve request #2 and for the Chair to sign, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The third request was for \$2,920.00 which was for attorney fees due to COVID-19. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve request #3 and for the Chair to sign, 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 1:30 PM.

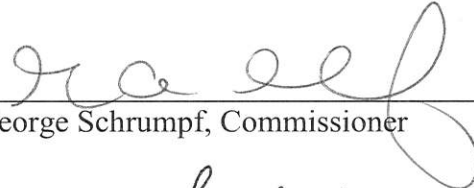
WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




Don Amber, Chairman



Thomas Western, Vice Chairman



George Schrumpf, Commissioner

Attest: 

Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor