

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 21, 2020

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 21, 2020 at 1:00 PM in the Commissioners' Room located on the 1st floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners' in attendance were Chairman Don Amber, Vice Chairman Thomas Western and Commissioner George Schrupf who joined electronically later in the meeting. Others in attendance were Attorney Matt Shipman, HR Director/Coordinator Jennifer Shinabery, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, County Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Sheriff Gatton, Janelle Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department, Dan Monaco from the Emergence Management Department, Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, Tom Schroeder, Chief Deputy Treasurer Kay Gatton, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, County Coroner Randy Dellinger, County Assessor Kim Erdly, County Recorder Rosemary Brown, Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter and Terry Burnworth from Pyramid Consulting.

Chairman Amber opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Amber then recognized the employees retiring at the end of 2020. He recognized Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, County Coroner Randy Dellinger and Lynda Jones from the Sheriff's Department. He thanked them for their service to Whitley County.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: County Attorney Matt Shipman informed the Commissioners that he has reviewed the Title IV Policy and it is ready for adoption by the Commissioners. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the Title IV Policy, seconded by Amber and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PLAT APPROVAL: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented two plats for approval by the Commissioners. The first plat was the Miami Ridge plat, and the Plan Commission has already approved it. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the plat, seconded by Amber and carried with a 2/0 vote. The second plat was for Lincoln Pointe Section 5. The Plan Commission approved this plat as well. There is a maintenance bond that is signed and approved as well for this plat and project. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the plat and bond, seconded by Amber and passed with a 2/0 vote. Nathan also presented a certificate of appointment to the Commissioners for Joe Wolf who is replacing Elizabeth Deckard. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the appointment of Joe Wolf, seconded by Amber and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Terry Burnworth from Pyramid Consulting gave a presentation to the Commissioners on the assessment and recommendation for the County's public safety communications system. He informed the Commissioners that they need to get Phase I going and work on a long-term plan.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented an ordinance to the Commissioners for approval. The ordinance is for establishing standards and conditions for the issuance of Whitley County Highway road and right-of-way work permits and the establishing of services fees for these services. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-14, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote. In the matter of the Highway Department annual bids, Brandon recommended that the Commissioners approve all bids except for fixed price fuel bids. Commissioner Western made a motion to accept all Highway Department annual bids except for fixed price fuel bids, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 3/0 vote. Brandon informed the Commissioners that he is also working on the bridge inspection report and the schedule for rehabilitations and replacements. For the record, he also did not apply for the second round of 2020 Community Crossings grants because the County already had funds awarded in the first round of grants.

IN THE MATTER OF ROW PERMITS: The first right-of-way permit request presented to the Commissioners was from Precision Utilities Group for approval was for 358 N 200 E to bore across the road per the owner's request. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second right-of-way permit request was from AEP Indiana Michigan Trans Co to install and maintain aerial and underground crossings of ADSS fiber optic line along several different County roads. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

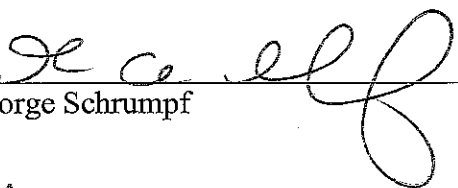
IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Chairman Amber stated that he has reviewed all payroll and accounts payable claims. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from December 7, 2020 through

December 21, 2020 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners also reviewed the December 7, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

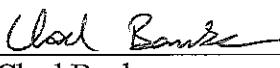
IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Amber thanked Whitley County for the time he has spent as a Commissioner.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Amber adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM.

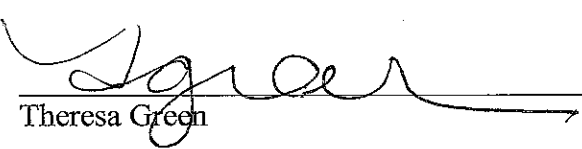
WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




George Schrupf



Chad Banks



Theresa Green

Attest: 

Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor