

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 1, 2021

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 1, 2021 at 1:00 PM in the Commissioners' Room located on the 1st floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chair George Schrupf, Vice Chair Theresa Green and Commissioner Chad Banks. Others in attendance were Coordinator/Human Resources Director Jennifer Shinabery, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Bill Brice from the Sheriff's Department, Carlee LaRue from the Health Department, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Tom Western, Sheriff Gatton, Janelle Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department, Joan Null, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Steve Shrock, Vincent Simmers and Andrew Grossnickle representing the Blue Lake Conservancy District, Chelsie David from the Post & Mail, Bill Etzler from Engineering Resources and Dale Shively.

Chair Schrupf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: Chair George Schrupf recognized employees with more than 20 years of service. Heather Reid has 20 years of service, Janelle Schmitt has 21 years of service, Denice Spencer has 23 years of service and Tony Helfrich has 25 years of service with the County.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Shipman informed the Commissioners that he will have the Armstrong Park agreement for purchase at their next meeting to be approved. Attorney Shipman stated that he has reviewed the Schneider Services Agreement and approved it. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the services agreement with Schneider, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote.

PETITION TO APPOINT A MEMBER TO THE BLUE LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Andrew Grossnickle from Beers Mellers Attorneys at Law was present to request appointments by the Commissioners to the Blue Lake Conservancy District's Board of Directors. The two appointments were Steven L. Shrock and Donald Greve, Jr. and they are both currently board members. Commissioner Green made a motion to appoint Steven L. Shrock and Donald Greve, Jr. to the Blue Lake Conservancy Board of Directors, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote.

RESOLUTION FOR LOCAL CONTROL OF LAND USE DECISIONS: The Commissioners reviewed a resolution expressing support for local control of land use decisions within the County. The resolution states that the Board of Commissioners believes that decisions regarding wind and solar development are best made by the citizens living in the community, rather than by the wind and solar industry or State officials who live outside the community. The Commissioners desire to express their opposition to House Bill 1381 which would allow this, and they support the rights of individuals and families living in a community to direct their own future and land decisions. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve this resolution per Resolution #2021-02, seconded by Green and carried with a 3/0 vote.

PART TIME TO FULL TIME POSITION REQUEST: Scott Wagner from the Health Department was present to request a part time position to go to full time. The request received a favorable recommendation from the Personnel Committee. Scott informed them that grant funds will be used to cover a portion of the salary. This request is needed due to the increased demand with COVID vaccines of the Health Department. Commissioner Banks made a motion for a favorable pass to Council, seconded by Green and passed with a 3/0 vote. Scott also gave a COVID update to the Commissioners.

PLAT APPROVALS: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented five plats to be approved by the Commissioners. All these plat requests have been approved by the Plan Commission. The first plat approval was for the replat of Crooked Lake Estates. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the replat, seconded by Green and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second plat approval was for the plat of Huckleberry Lane. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote. The third plat request was for Marquell Acres. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Green and passed with a 3/0 vote. The fourth request was for Peacock Ridge Section 2. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the plat request, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote. The last plat request was for Doege Acres. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Green and passed with a 3/0 vote. Nathan informed the Commissioners that the second round of public engagement for the comprehensive plan will be March 13, 2020 at the 4H Center from 11 AM to 3 PM. The final draft will be completed by May.

HIGHWAY UPDATE AND RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT REQUEST: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented a Nipsco right-of-way permit request to the Commissioners. The request was for an open cut on the east side of County Line Road to repair a leaking valve. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the right-of-way permit request, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote. Brandon informed the

Commissioners that the Highway Department's annual report has been submitted to the State. He will also be sending out an RFP for bridge inspections, which will be sent to the Indiana Department of Transportation, and vendors will have one month to submit a letter of interest. Brandon reported to the Commissioners that the County was awarded \$2,203,804 for a federal aid project to bring any deficiencies in our ADA compliance up to date. This will be about a five-to-six-year process. The next step is to have an early coordination meeting which will be set up soon with INDOT. Donatello's Village, Bel Sogno and Lincoln Pointe will all be receiving new sidewalks and curb ramps to be ADA compliant. In the matter of re-establishing the Cumulative Bridge rate, Brandon will have an ordinance for the Commissioners to approve at their next meeting to re-establish the rate. Brandon also informed the Commissioners that he will be bringing agreements for the Commissioners to sign for unofficial detours at their next meeting. There is a structure between Cider Mill Road and 150 East that is being replaced and those two roads are the unofficial detour. The other structure that is being replaced is south of County Road 250 East and the unofficial detour will be County Road 200 North and Airport Road.

PARKVIEW NON-DOT CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT AMENDMENT AND 2021 DRUG SCREEN PRICING NOTIFICATION: Human Resources Director/County Coordinator Jennifer Shinabery informed the Commissioners that Parkview sent the County an updated pricing agreement per each drug test the County requests. The cost per test is going from \$32 to \$34 with this amendment. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the amendment, seconded by Green and carried with a 3/0 vote.

2021 TITLE IV PLAN ADOPTION: Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer presented the 2021 Title IV Plan to the Commissioners for approval. This is the same plan as previous years; it is just changing the year. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the 2021 Title IV Plan for ADA, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Chair Schrumptz stated that he has reviewed all payroll and accounts payable claims. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Green and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from February 16, 2021 through March 1, 2021 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners also reviewed the February 1, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Carlee Larue from the Health Department was present to request a letter of support from the Commissioners for the CLEAR (Certified Leaders for Emotional Assistance Team. This CLEAR Team a group of volunteer mental health professionals and first responders that provide free mental health services to first responders in Whitley County. They include pre-crisis training, defusing, and debriefing traumatic incidents using Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). Commissioner Banks approved for the Chair to sign a letter of support for the CLEAR Team, seconded by Green and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schrumptz presented a resolution for approval that authorizes the application submission and local match commitment for a grant. This is an OCRA grant for substance abuse treatment and mental health services at Community Corrections. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Green announced that the Town Marshall of Churubusco, Dustin Papenbrock was nominated for the 40 under 40 award which is a great honor.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Schrumptz adjourned the meeting at 1:50 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair George Schrumptz

Vice Chair Theresa Green

Commissioner Chad Banks

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor