

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 3, 2021

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 3, 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, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Sonya Emerick, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Bill Etzler from Abonmarche Consultants Inc., Clerk Cindy Dootlitle, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Andrew Low from LOW Associates, John McFadden, Natalie Sheilds, Mista Lauber, Robert Ryan, Kurt Carlson and Jay Baumgartner all from the Bowen Center.

Chair Schrupf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: Chair George Schrupf recognized employees with more than 20 years of service. Steve Schuman has 32 years of service, Jeanette Hearld has 30 years of service, Kevin Alexander has 28 years of service and Mike Rumsyre has 21 years of service.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Shipman informed the Commissioners that he is still reviewing the purchase of the Armstrong Property. He will follow up with the Commissioners later with their purchase options.

BOWEN CENTER UPDATE: Mista Lauber gave the Commissioners a Bowen Center update. She informed them that they have worked in jails, schools, libraries, homes, etc. over the last year. They served 1,966 patients in Whitley County in 2020. Bowen Center also had 34 Department of Child Services cases in Whitley County and each one of those closed successfully. Bowen Center helps with many different matters and they strive to strengthen the community and improve the health and well-being of those who they serve. Mista reported to the Commissioners that the Bowen Center's revenue for Whitley County for 2020 was \$4,300,000.

PLAT APPROVAL: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented a plat to the Commissioners for approval. The plat was for EDH Acres on Washington Road. The Plan Commission approved the plat request in February. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the plat request, seconded by Green and passed with a 3/0 vote. Nathan informed the Commissioners that the public hearing for the comprehensive plan will be Thursday, June 10th at 7:00 pm.

GPS EQUIPMENT PURCHASE REQUEST: Scott Wagner from the Health Department and GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold presented a request to the Commissioners to purchase GPS equipment. This equipment would allow Scott to locate septic systems and upload the information to the Whitley County Beacon website. Commissioner Green made a motion for a favorable pass to Council for funding, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote.

APPROVAL FOR HOUSE CLEANUP: Scott Wagner from the Health Department informed the Commissioners that there is a property that needs cleaned up per court order. The property address is 5035 E Duffin Street Columbia City, IN and the order is to remove all debris on the outside of the building/structures including automobiles. The cost of the cleanup is \$3,250.00. Whitley Environmental will be doing the cleanup and if the homeowners do not pay the invoice within 30 days, the cost of the invoice will be added to their tax bill. Scott informed them that he sent a letter to the homeowners and he did not receive a response. Commissioner Green made a motion to allow the cleanup and accept the bid from Whitley Environmental, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote. Scott also gave the Commissioners a COVID update.

ADVANCED TIME TIMEKEEPING SYSTEM: Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented a request for the Advanced Time timekeeping system to the Commissioners. This a new system that integrates with the County's Low payroll and financial software. It would replace the Right Stuff Timekeeping software and would also be a cost savings to the County. Andrew Low from Low Associates gave a presentation to the Commissioners as well and stated that there are four counties ahead of us to get the software. Commissioner Banks made a motion for a favorable pass to Council, seconded by Green and carried with a 3/0 vote.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented a Cintas agreement renewal to the Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve and for the Chair to sign the Cintas agreement, seconded by Green and passed with a 3/0 vote. Brandon then gave the Commissioners a right-of-way permit request that required an open cut. He informed them that Nipsco has started the open cut but did not receive approval first. The fine is a minimum of \$1,000 and a max of \$2,500 if a

company begins the process without prior approval. Brandon sent the information on all the fees to the utility companies in the area. Commissioner Banks made a motion to require the companies to still pay the permit fees but offer forgiveness for up to one year if they were unaware of the new policy and one time forgiveness for each company, seconded by Green and passed with a 3/0 vote. Brandon informed the Commissioners that the Redevelopment Commission is funding a drainage project at Gateway Park and it requires relocation of gas lines there for proposed storm lines. They have taken bids for construction for this project and are asking for the fee to be waived for the right-of-way permit. Commissioner Banks made a motion to waive the right-of-way permit fee for the Redevelopment Commission, seconded by Green and carried with a 3/0 vote. Brandon reported that the Highway Department was awarded in the second round of Community Crossings grants. The funding is for a 2" overlay on Raber Road and for Lincolnway to the Noble County line. The notice to bidders is ready to be approved and the bid opening will be on June 7th at 1:00 PM. Commissioner Banks made a motion to allow Brandon to advertise for bids for the Community Crossings projects, seconded by Green and carried with a 3/0 vote.

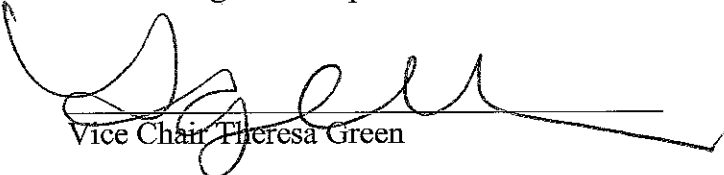
MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The Commissioners reviewed all payroll and accounts payable claims. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Green and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from April 19, 2021 through May 3, 2021 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Green and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the April 19, 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: The Commissioners had three requests to use County facilities to review and approve. The first request was for a wedding ceremony on May 21, 2021 from 7:00 to 7:30 PM and they would like to use the Courthouse gazebo. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request was for First Fridays from May to October to use the Courthouse lawn for First Friday events from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote. The last request was for the National Day of Prayer to use the Courthouse lawn and gazebo on May 6, 2021. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Green and passed with a 3/0 vote.


There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Schrupf adjourned the meeting at 2:05 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair George Schrupf

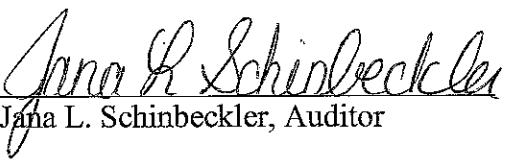


Vice Chair Theresa Green



Commissioner Chad Banks

Attest:



Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor