

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 19, 2021

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, July 19, 2021, at 1:00 PM in the Commissioner's Meeting Room located on the first 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, County Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Council member Tom Warner, Cory Dietz from Elevatus Architecture, Mark Jesse from A & Z Engineering, Tammy Wyss from DLZ, Sonya Emerick, Chris Sosebee from Weigand Construction, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Denny MacIntyre from W.A. Jones, Paul Schunke from Selking International and Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester.

Vice Chair Green opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**TRUCK BID OPENING FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** The Commissioners opened bids for two new 2022 tandem axle trucks for the highway department. The first bid was from Selking International for \$234,498.02. The second bid was from Centre State International for \$116,899.00. The last bid was from W.A. Jones for \$211,978.00. Commissioner Green made a motion to take the bids under advisement, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT:** Attorney Shipman informed the Commissioners that the County closed on the Armstrong Property for the Jail last week. He is also in the process of redoing the interlocal agreement with Solid Waste.

**UNSAFE BUILDING HEARING UPDATE:** Craig Wagner from Planning and Building gave an update on the unsafe building hearing. Craig sent the owner a letter and never heard back from them. There was some cleanup on the lot, but Craig has not heard anything concerning the demolition of the house. The owner is given 60 days to meet the requirement of the court order. If the requirements are not met, the County must give the owner a ten-day notice that we will begin accepting bids to demolish the house. The 60 period ends August 8, 2021.

**PREPAY RENT AGREEMENT WITH PB DEVELOPMENT, LLC:** The Commissioners reviewed the agreement with PB Development, LLC to prepay rent whereby the Lessor undertook the development of a 15.15-acre parcel of real estate located in a tax increment financing district. The Redevelopment Commission has agreed to pay rent in the amount of \$17,708.33 per month to the lessor, PB Development, LLC, for a total of \$425,000. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the agreement and allow the Vice Chair to sign, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**WELL EXEMPTION REQUESTS:** Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented two well exemption requests to the Commissioners for approval. The first request was for a property located at 1995 East Bair Road in Columbia City. The existing well will be closer than ten feet to the in ground retaining wall. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second request was for a property located on 700 N in Columbia City. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 3/0 vote. Scott also gave the Commissioners a COVID update.

**PETERSON CONSULTING ENGAGEMENT LETTER:** Auditor Schinbeckler presented the Peterson Consulting Engagement letter to the Commissioners for approval. This engagement letter allows Peterson Consulting to assist with reporting our assets on the Annual Financial Report each year. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the letter and allow the Vice Chair to sign, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

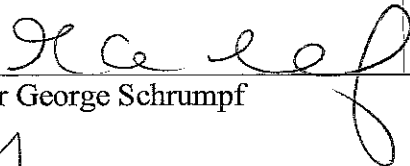
**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE & NO PARKING ORDINANCE:** Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Commissioners that he needs a verbal commitment and letter of commitment from the Commissioners to submit the application for the Community Crossings grant. Brandon informed the Commissioners that the amount would not exceed \$300,000. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the letter of commitment and allow the Vice Chair to sign, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 3/0 vote. Regarding the No Parking Ordinance, there is an issue out on Lincolnway East at Union 12. During events, the public parks along Lincolnway and it has become a safety concern for the public. Commissioner Schrupf stated that he has communicated with the owners of Union 12 and would like to table the ordinance for now. Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to table the amended No Parking Ordinance, seconded by Banks and tabled with a 3/0 vote.

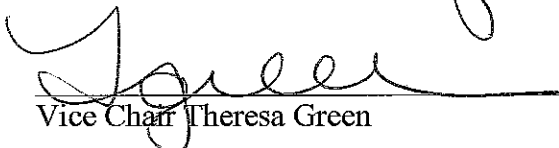
**MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The Commissioners reviewed all payroll and accounts payable claims. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from July 6, 2021, through July 19, 2021, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the July 6, 2021, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Commissioner Banks thanked Planning Director Nathan Bilger for getting the recording system working in the Commissioner's meeting room. Commissioner Banks made the announcement that the 4-H fair is currently taking place. He also announced that the community lost a pillar last week, Tom Cormany, who was a Councilman, and he would like to send his condolences to his family. Commissioner Banks brought up discussion regarding Lori Shipman's contract. He stated that he would not be in favor of renewing a new contract but would like to go by a month-to-month basis instead.

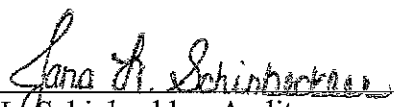
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Vice Chair Green adjourned the meeting at 1:35 PM.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Chair George Schrupf

  
Vice Chair Theresa Green

  
Commissioner Chad Banks

Attest:   
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor