

## WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

August 3, 2021

The Whitley County Council met in session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chair Thor Hodges, Vice Chair Kim Wheeler, Timothy Kumfer, Thomas Warner, James Argerbright, Joan Western and John Barrett. Others in attendance were Commissioner George Schrupf, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Tiffany Deakins, County Treasurer Kay Gatton, County Assessor Kim Erdly, Sheriff Gatton, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jason Spencer, Janelle Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant, and Kennedy Saggars from the Whitley County EDC.

Chair Hodges called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **REVIEW OF ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMITS AND ESTIMATED REDUCTIONS**

**DUE TO CIRCUIT BREAKERS:** The Council reviewed the max levies and circuit breaker credits for each taxing unit within the County. After review, Council member Kumfer made a motion to not make any recommendations or changes seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**2022 MAXIMUM LEVY AMOUNT FOR COUNTY & COUNTY GENERAL BUDGET:** The Council discussed the 2022 County General budget and property tax levies for the County. The estimated overall levy for the County is \$6,898,133. This levy must be divided between County General, Cumulative Bridge, Cumulative Capital Development, Health, Reassessment, County 4-H, and Whitley County Council on Aging. The Council also discussed increases and potential budget cuts to County General. Council member Kumfer made a motion for County General to receive a levy of \$5,015,814, Cumulative Bridge to receive a levy of \$892,319, Cumulative Capital Development to receive \$250,000, Health to receive \$500,000, Reassessment to receive \$200,000, and County 4-H and Council on Aging to receive \$20,000 each. His motion also included a 2% increase for all full-time employees and an overall 2% budget reduction for County General budgets. The reduction of budgets does not include the Health Department, the Assessor, or Community Corrections. Chair Hodges asked that the Commissioners and the Assessor check with our legal counsel if we can cut the Reassessment levy down to below their budget amount for 2022. Council member Barrett seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 7/0 vote.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Schrupf gave a report from the Commissioner Meeting:


- Commissioner Schrupf informed the Council that the County has received the first payment of ARPA funds in the amount of \$3,298,554.50. The Commissioners are still developing a plan for the funds and are waiting on recommendations from Baker Tilly.
- Commissioner Schrupf informed the Council of a Workforce Ready Grant that is available. The grant covers advanced manufacturing, building and construction, health services, IT, and business services, as well as transportation and logistics. This is an 80/20 grant which would require the County to fund 80%.
- The Health Insurance Trust fund currently has a balance of \$1,061,444.62. The Commissioners agreed to pay Health Insurance payments out of the trust fund, but they will not let the balance get below \$500,000.
- Commissioner Schrupf gave an update on the Jail project as well.

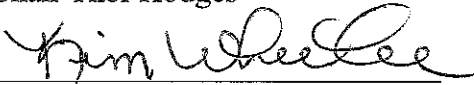
**MINUTES:** The Council reviewed the July 7, 2021, regular meeting minutes. Council member Warner made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Argerbright and passed with a 6/0 vote with Barrett abstaining.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Scott Wagner from the Health Department informed the Council that he received notice from the State WIC Office that they are reducing numbers and hours for everyone in our WIC Office. Scott would like to come back in September and ask the Council to fund the budget cuts from the State in the Health fund 1159. He estimated that the amount he would need to fund would not be over \$40,000. Council member Kumfer gave an update on the Personnel Committee meetings. The Personnel Committee has recommended that the Council approve a full-time Security Officer for the Courthouse with a salary of \$50,282, a Captain position for the Sheriff's Department with a salary of \$62,312, and a title change for a position in the WIC Office. EMA Director Amy Biggs did request an EMA Specialist position, but the Personnel Committee did not give a favorable recommendation at this time. Council member Kumfer made a motion to approve these recommendations by the Personnel Committee for the 2022 budget cycle, seconded by Western and carried with a 7/0 vote.


There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Hodges adjourned the meeting at 9:25 AM.

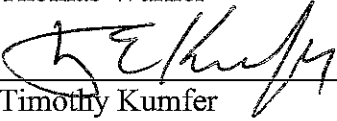
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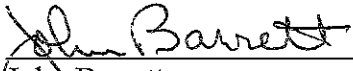
  
Chair Thor Hodges

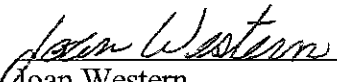
  
Vice Chair Kim Wheeler

James Argerbright


  
Thomas Warner

  
Timothy Kumfer

  
John Barrett

  
Joan Western

Attest:

  
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor