

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 5, 2022

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, July 5, 2022, 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 Chad Banks, Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger and Commissioner Schrumpf. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Hamilton-Tincher, Commissioners' Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, HR Director Jennifer Shinabery, Highway Director Katy Fry, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Sheriff Marcus Gatton, Jason Spencer, Sean Martin and Todd Cook from the Sheriffs Department, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Council members Timothy Kumfer and Thomas Warner, and Rob Schuman.

Chair Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Shipman stated that he had nothing to report other than agenda items.

BID APPROVAL AND HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Highway Director Katy Fry informed the Commissioners that she reviewed the bids for the Community Crossings project. Katy recommends that the Commissioners accept the Niblock bid at \$1,090,348.00. This would make the local match for Community Crossings \$283,790.50. Katy let Commissioners know that there are a few items that the County would need to make sure that we received from Niblock before the contract would be signed. USI recommended that the County get a performance bond from Niblock, Katy will check into that when she gets the other items that are still needed. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the Niblock bid, seconded by Baysinger, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Banks asked Katy to speak on behalf of the Interlocal Agreement with Columbia City that is on the agenda while she was present. Columbia City now owns a portion of 200 S. and will be responsible for 25% of improvements, this agreement has already been approved by Columbia City. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement with a second by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Katy also let the Commissioners know that the Highway Department has a mower that is unsafe for use and at its end of life, so the Highway Department is down to one mower. Katy wanted Commissioners to know that she will probably have to seek additional appropriations if they can obtain a mower for the season.

REZONING REQUEST & PLAT APPROVAL: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented a rezoning request for 1 lot near Eel River and Raber Road. This did get a favorable pass from the Plan Commission, they had one neighbor that was concerned about the rezoning request as he didn't want to see agricultural land be developed further. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-09 as presented, with a second by Baysinger and carried with a 3/0 vote. Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented a plat for approval. Hatton Homestead is a 1 lot plat that has been approved by the Plan Commission in October of 2021, however there were some items that had to be completed before the plat came to Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the plat as presented, with a second by Schrumpf, passing with a 3/0 vote. Nathan also let Commissioners know that he had some boxes that were in Meeting Room E which took on some water with the recent rains. He would like to get quotes to scan and digitize these types of papers so that we do not have to store them.

VEHICLE USE POLICY: HR Director Jennifer Shinabery was present to seek approval for the Driving and Vehicle Use Policy that has been reviewed and returned by a employer lawyer Gary Johnson. This was a request to complete by the County's liability insurance company Travelers Insurance. Attorney Shipman and Attorney Johnson have both reviewed and agree that it is ready to be accepted. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve as presented and give a favorable pass to Council, with a second by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

CAPTIAL ASSET AGREEMENT: Auditor Tiffany Deakins presented Commissioners with a yearly agreement from Peterson Consulting to have them complete the County's 2022 Capital Asset Report. Attorney Shipman stated that Peterson Consulting has been doing this for several years for the County and this is the same agreement with a slight increase for services. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, with a second by Baysinger and carried with a 3/0 vote.

ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE RESOLUTION: Attorney Shipman stated that if the Commissioners and Council would like to continue to have the option to attend meetings electronically that we need to adopt a Resolution allowing them to do so with the executive order coming to an end. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-08, with a second by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

CMC CONTRACT: Commissioner Banks stated that he feels that this contract should go before the CMC selection committee for their approval and review. Commissioner Baysinger stated that she agreed as long as the committee can meet and sign off on before the next Commissioner meeting, which is July 18th.

Commissioner Green made a motion to table until the July 18th meeting, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from June 21, 2022, through July 5, 2022, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Baysinger stated that they all looked good. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, with a second by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the regular meeting minutes from June 20, 2022. Commissioner Baysinger stated that there was a spelling error in the paragraph about the coroner's vehicle, Commissioner Banks fixed the error. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.


There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:43 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chair Chad Banks


Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger

Commissioner George Schrumpf

Attest: 
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor