

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

October 7, 2024

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, October 7, 2024, 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 Rob Schuman, and Commissioner Theresa Baysinger. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Commissioners' Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Highway Director Ryan Getts, Engineer Brad Allen, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Veteran Service Officer Joshua Smith, Julie Jensen-Kelly and Daniel Bobilya.

Chairman Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE REQUEST OF VACATION:

The public hearing was in regard to a request to vacate right of way and establish new right of way near Linker Rd and Lynn Rd. The hearing petition was filed by Shane & Morgan Salyer and Bradley & Martha Cooper. The Commissioners heard from Daniel Bobilya the attorney for the petitioners, as well as Brad Allen the County Engineer on the matter.

There being no further business or public comment, the public hearing was closed and the regular Commissioner meeting reconvened.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE REQUEST OF VACATION:

Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-12 waiving the second reading, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE: Josh Smith the Veteran Services Officer gave Commissioners an update since he has been hired in April of 2024. Josh has been able to meet with or speak to approximately 200 veterans and really enjoys what he does. Commissioner's and Julie Jensen-Kelly both thanked Josh for his great work that he has been doing.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2025 ANNUAL BID NOTICE: Ryan Getts presented the notice to bidders for the annual major supplies for 2025 to the Commissioners. The opening of the sealed bids will be on November 18th at 10:30 AM and the sealed bids must be received by the Auditor's office by 4:30 PM on November 15th, 2024. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the notice to bidders for the annual major supplies for 2025, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote.

ADDICTION RECOVERY GRANT FUND ORDINANCE: Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Commissioners and Attorney Boxberger have reviewed the ordinance to establish the Addiction Recovery Grant Fund, this is to allow for a fund to be created to house the grant funds and track the funds when received. Baysinger made a motion to approve

Ordinance 2024-13, waiving the second reading, seconded by Schuman, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

ACCOUNT DISCUSSION & POLLING LOCATION AMENDMENT: Clerk Cindy Doolittle was present to seek approval for an amendment to the polling location that was Tri-Lakes Baptist Church as they did not have room for the general election. She let Commissioners know that the location has been changed to the Thorncreek Fire Station. Post cards will be sent to over 800 voters to let them know about this change. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the amendment, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote. Cindy also explained that there has been an issue with a check that was sent to the wrong attorney in 2022 for a garnishment and she has been trying to recover those funds since December of 2023. The attorney that was supposed to be paid in 2022 would like to have their funds, however the funds have not been recovered at this time. Cindy would like to pay the \$311.13 to the correct attorney out of her current budget and will still try to recover the funds. Commissioners gave the support to ask Council at their October 8th meeting.

INDOT SPECIAL SAFETY CALL FINANCIAL LETTER: Engineer Brad Allen was present to seek financial support to apply for an INDOT Special Safety Grant. The matching component will come from the Highway Department and the funds will be used to help with road striping. The amount of match will not exceed \$16,575.53. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote. Commissioners and Attorney Boxberger also reviewed an agreement with Engineering Resources for work to start on January 1 in the amount of \$86,310. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

PLAT APPROVAL: Planning & Building Director Nathan Bilger presented a plat to be approved.

- Lee Acres is a 1 lot plat off Anderson Rd west of Sheldon Rd. This was approved at the September Plan Commission meeting. Baysinger made a motion to approve the plat, seconded by Schuman and carried with a 3/0 vote.

REGIONAL SEWER AGREEMENT: Commissioners received a sub-recipient grant agreement from the Regional Sewer for \$1,000,000 of the ARPA funds that were received. This would help in the Churubusco area and only would get the money if they receive funds that they have applied for. The Regional Sewer District will find out if the funds will be awarded in July-August of 2025. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

4EOS CONTRACT: Commissioners have received a contract for the IT vendor 4EOS that the County has been using for approximately 2 years now. They have been given two options a 3-year contract and 5-year contract amount. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve and utilize the cost savings picking the 5-year contract, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

MICROPULSE ROAD IMPROVEMENT AGREEMENT: Attorney Boxberger let Commissioners know that he had worked with Zach Beard at Micropulse to create the agreement for Micropulse to make road improvements and be responsible for the construction and costs. The Commissioners as well as Attorney Boxberger have reviewed the agreement and are good with the final version. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

2025 COMMISSIONER MEETING SCHEDULE: Commissioners reviewed the proposed 2025 Commissioner meeting schedule with no changes. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Baysinger, passing with 3/0 vote.

FACILITIES REQUESTS: Commissioners had three facilities requests to review.

1. JoAnn Bird would like to utilize around the Courthouse for the annual Veteran Marathon on November 1st from 9:00 am until November 2nd at 3 pm. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.
2. Lee Mergy would like to use the courthouse and south lawn for a Christmas celebration December 6th and 7th from 6-8 pm. Baysinger made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Schuman a passed with a 3/0 vote.
3. Lodge 189 would like to use the courthouse parking area on October 26th during the time of 5-9 pm for a trunk or treat event. Schuman made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Baysinger, and passed with a 3/0 vote.


MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from September 17, 2024, through October 7, 2024, were reviewed by Commissioner Schuman. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the regular meeting minutes for September 16, 2024. Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger and carried with a 3/0 vote.


PUBLIC COMMENT: Clerk Cindy Doolittle wanted to let Commissioners know that there may be a conflict with the facility request that was presented for the Veteran Day Marathon being November 1st and 2nd. This will interfere with picking up polling machines. Commissioners stated that they would get with JoAnn Bird regarding the facility request and make sure that there will be no issues. Cindy also stated that absentee voting starts Tuesday October 8th for the election.

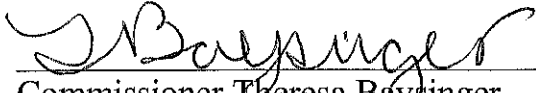
OTHER BUSINESS: Attorney Boxberger stated that he had sent Commissioners a draft of the ordinance for contracts and would like to have them review it and see if they would like any changes to be made, as well as if they would like to offer County Officers to be able to sign their own contracts if they are under a certain dollar amount.


There being no further business and no comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:45 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chair Chad Banks


Vice Chair Robert Schuman


Commissioner Theresa Baysinger

Attest: 
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor