

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 17, 2014

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 17, 2014 at 1:00pm in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman George Schrupf, Vice Chair Don Amber and Tom Rethlake. Others in attendance, Dan Sigler- County Attorney, Auditor Jennifer McGuire, County Coordinator- Pam Smith, Michael Barton, Bryan Jones & Chris Jankoviak- Adams Remco, Paula Reimers- County Council, Stanley Crum- Woods, Lands & Lakes, Rita Sauders – County Assessor, Mary Hartman- Peabody Library, Joan Null, Gene Heckman- Thorncreek Township, Terry Smith, Paula Worden- Community Corrections, Jeff Johnson, Brett Myers- Post and Mail and Katie Wagner- Churubusco News

Chairman Schrupf opened the meeting with the pledge.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:** County Attorney, Dan Sigler, presented a Quit Claim deed that was done for the Commissioners to transfer the DNR property on Fish Hatchery Road back to the State of Indiana. The new deed cleaned up the legal description requested by the State and now will be transferred back to the State. Auditor McGuire will process the deed and have it recorded. A revised Assessment Contract was approved by Attorney Sigler to meet the State's request for Accurate Assessments for the next four years for County Assessor Rita Sauders. The Contract was previously approved and with the corrected language the Commissioners signed the new Contract. Attorney Sigler notified the Commissioners that a settlement has been met in the Bickel Case and at this time no final amount has been set in the Class Action suit. The Commissioners made Sigler aware of some of the original construction issues for the Government Center that were found when the basement flooded in the internal walls. Attorney Sigler will not be attending the April 7, 2014 meeting.

**IN THE MATTER OF ADVANCED IMAGING:** Chairman Schrupf addressed the Contract with Advanced Imaging for the print services involving all printers, copiers and scanners for Whitley County. All the equipment will be standardized so each department is using the same equipment. Commissioner Schrupf wants the 2015 department budgets to be responsible for any overages occurred by each department for the print contract. At the end of the contract the County will own the equipment. The old copiers and printers have no substantial value and will be looked at being scrapped at Solid Waste if no cost is incurred. The local papers present at the meeting were asked to put an article out for any interested Non-for –Profit groups to please contact the County before we scrap the equipment.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY HIGHWAY:** Michael Barton, Highway Director, requested that Highway Mechanic, Kevin Alexander, get a stipend for his cell phone usage from the County. After discussion a motion to allow the stipend was made by Rethlake, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. Barton reported that all the snow storms have taken a toll on the Highway trucks. In the last storm six of the fleet trucks were out of service, four of them are back in service after repairs by the Highway mechanics and one truck had to be sent out for repair and one truck will now be used for parts. The new Highway truck has been ordered. Since the Winter was so hard on the trucks Barton would like to forgo the purchase of the chip spreader that he originally requested for 2014 and look at purchasing another truck. He will take this request change to the County Council for approval. Also discussed was the elimination of the \$20.00 Driveway Permit fee that is collected by the Highway. Barton feels this should be part of the Highways job and not an additional cost to the taxpayers of Whitley County. Barton will have to contact the Whitley County Fee Committee to review this request and make any changes. No Milling machine will be rented for the Summer of 2014. Commissioner Amber would like to see signs up for the bridge closure on 650 East ahead of time. The Commissioners would like to again "Thank" the entire Highway Department for their Winter efforts on the roads.

**IN THE MATTER OF WOODS-LANDS AND LAKES:** Stanley Crum, the Commissioners appointment from Whitley County, made a report from the Wood-Land-Lakes RC & D meetings. Crum gave a quick overview of the new Bylaw changes with most of the changes involving the Investment Committee that has been created. The four major items are the acres of land easements, harmful plants, land trust seminars and adopt a plan for funding these were discussed by Crum. Invitations for the 20 Year Anniversary celebration will be mailed in the Fall. The Commissioners appreciate Stanley's effort in representing Whitley County.

**IN THE MATTER OF ADAMS REMCO:** Bryan Jones and Chris Jankoviak made a presentation to the Commissioners for Adams Remco on behalf of office automation and what products are available. Other discussion was the use of electronic management for disaster recovery of documents. Adams Remco is locally owned and part of the National Governmental Purchasing alliance. Chairman Schrupf accepted their handout to review and would like to set up an appointment for them to give the County a quote on the print project.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS:** Paula Worden requested a cell phone stipend from the Commissioners for two of her employees, Vicky Burney and Marcy Archibold. After discussion it was determined the expenditure would be out of User Fees and that the Community Corrections Board would have to make the determination for the stipend not the Commissioners.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** Minutes from the March 3, 2014 Commissioner's meeting were reviewed, Rethlake made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The disbursement of claim's report for March 17, 2014 was reviewed. After discussion on some of the claims, a motion to allow the claims was made by Amber seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT:** A Utility Permit from Frontier to use the County Highway Right-of-Way on east Anderson Road locations includes a cabinet on 850 East on the south side of Anderson and West of State Road 205. The work will replace the damaged cabinet from an automobile accident. A motion to allow the permit was made by Amber to sign, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

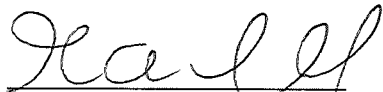
**IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR:** Pam Smith, County Coordinator, presented a Request to Use County Facilities from the Old Settler's Day Association. The event is June 23 through the 28, 2014 and they will need the Court House lawn and use of restrooms. The contact person is Kay Fleck. After discussion a motion to allow was made by Rethlake, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONER UPDATES:** Commissioner Rethlake reported with HB106 effective July 1, 2014 that the number of inmates could change with the new law being put into effect. In the Sheriff's annual jail report the video conferencing is still not complete but a meeting next Tuesday at 2pm will discuss the delay of the project and what needs done to complete the work with the vendor. Commissioner Amber would like to attend the NE AIC meeting in Dekalb on April 16, 2014. Amber would like to look at three part-time employees to be used as needed for snow removal next year at the Highway department. Chairman Schrupf handed out the contract with Carrier to replace the return fan unit on the top of the Government Center from the Maintenance department. The funding was in the CEDIT budget and will have to go before the County Council before approval. Schrupf also presented quotes from the Sheriff for the expansion of the administrative office out into the lobby at the jail. This will also need to be approved and presented to the County Council for final approval and also where the funding will be paid out of with the Sheriff agreeing for fifty percent to be paid out of the Commissary funds.


**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** State Statute codes were given to the Commissioner by Councilman Paula Reimers to review on accepting and requests for quotes and bids for Whitley County and what criteria needs met for approval. A letter from Scott Wagner, Health Department, was discussed and the Commissioners would like to invite him to the next meeting to discuss some of the issues from the Weights and Measures Division requirements so at this time a motion to table was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Annual Jail Statistics for 2013 report was given to the Commissioners for review by Sheriff Hodges. The flooding and water damage in the basement of the Government Center is being considered Emergency Repair. Terry Smith reported that he recently had a flat tire and when fixed a piece of steel was found. His question is this from material being used on the roads or from semi-trucks using the roadways. Auditor McGuire reported that all the 2014 Voting locations have been notified and approval has been sent to each location.

With no further input from the public, Chairman Schruppf adjourned the meeting.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
George Schruppf, Chairman

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Don Amber, Vice Chairman

  
Tom Rethlake

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer McGuire  
Auditor

