

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 7, 2014

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 7, 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 Schrumpf and Member, Tom Rethlake. Vice Chairman- Don Amber and County Attorney Dan Sigler were both absent. Others in attendance, Auditor Jennifer McGuire, County Coordinator- Pam Smith, Scott Wagner – Health Department, Gene Heckman- Thorncreek Township, Mary Hartman – Peabody Library, Michael Barton-Highway, Sheriff Hodges, Craig Wagner – Planning & Building, Robert Lang, Todd A Storm, Donna Jones, Chris Kaufman & Patti Smith- BLN, B. E. Bogdon, Emmett & Maureen Bogdon, Stanley Crum, Joan Null, Katie Wagner- Churubusco News, Christine Workman, Post & Mail, Kelley Sheiss- LWC, Jeff Jones and Dawn Boyd.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the pledge.

In the matter of two advertised Public Hearings for Vacation:

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION TO VACATE: A Petition to vacate property located in the SE4 of Section 26 Etna Troy township, lying between Lots 28-32 in the Replat of West Shore Addition to Loon Lake was reviewed with attorney Jeff Jones. All legal advertisements have been published and no objection from adjoining landowners was acknowledged for any resistance in moving ahead with this Petition. Donna Jones, property owner spoke on behalf of the petition and that it cleans up the property lines and extends them to the lake front. After discussion a motion to allow Ordinance #2014-01 for the vacation to be signed was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION TO VACATE: A Petition to vacate property located at Highland Park Addition of Tri-Lakes Resort and part of North Shore Addition to Tri-Lakes Resort was reviewed. Attorney Dawn Boyd stated that all legal advertisements have been published and all adjoining landowners notified. At this time objections were heard from adjoining land owners and a letter was read with objection to the Petition to vacate. All landowners were advised to review the survey of the Vacation and come up with a compromise so all parties were considered. A motion was made by the Commissioners to table any decisions until the April 21, 2014 meeting and to continue the Hearing with any changes by all parties before a final determination would be made on the Vacation.

IN THE MATTER OF PEABODY LIBRARY: Mary Hartman, Library Director, gave a year end 2013 update of the facility and all the changes. She went over the handout highlighting all the statistics. The use of electronic equipment and devices are up with downloads and videos. Computer upgrades have been done in all three County libraries. The new programs she would like to implement is the use of the 14 acre wetland as a Nature Center, all WCCS school children allowed cheaper one year library card and full service to all amenities within the building.

IN THE MATTER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES: The update letter from Scott Wagner, from the Health department, was reviewed. Discussion on the amount of time needed for the extra testing time now required by the State for the regular and premium gas and how long the gas pumps would be out of service for this inspection. If the funding is available for the stop watch to go ahead with the training required to test "timing devices" throughout the county. The last request for more weights may have to be put off until the 2015 budget to request additional appropriations if not funded at this time. Scott gave an example of the Monthly Weight and Measures Report and explained that he can email this to the Commissioner's for review if they wish.

IN THE MATTER OF PLANNING & BUILDING UPDATES: Craig Wagner, Planning & Building Department, updated the Commissioners that the adjoining neighbor for the Smith/McKinney property found an outstanding mortgage on the property in the title work for \$42,000 and at this time has put a hold on purchasing the property. Wagner wants to go ahead with obtaining bids for the demolition of the dwelling on this property. In respect to the Ebetino property no contact has been made since December 16, 2013. With the Winter weather the County extended the deadline but Wagner feels at this time with no progress being done and no one living at the location the process for demolition should be implemented. As for the Hinen property in Laud the demolition debris is still on the property and per the contract it should be complete by the end of the month.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY HIGHWAY: Michael Barton, Highway Director, gave an overview of cost incurred for the Winter weather compared to last year's cost. The overall increase was almost double for an increase of around \$166,000 in cost, with most of the cost coming from fuel, contracted labor and overtime. Barton will be going to County Council in May to request some Additional appropriations in those accounts. Multiple calls and emails have come in about semi-trailers using the County Line road, but the road is built for vehicle traffic not pedestrian walkways. At this time no FEMA funding will be given from the State for cost incurred in the Winter Storms.

IN THE MATTER OF BRIDGE & CULVERT UPDATES: Brandon Forrester, County Engineer, gave an update that both Ruckman Road and CR 700 N at Loon Lake are now open. At this time the 650 East project is delayed until Fall because the bridge on Hartman Road will be completed at this time. Due to the business located on Hartman Road eight detour signs were placed. The project will close the road for 2-3 months. Forrester presented a draft letter for INDOT on the removal of traffic signal heads at CR 700 E and US #30. SDI has not returned the call about the project. Chairman Schrupf wants to review the letter before mailing to INDOT. It has been eight years since the last small structure/culverts were inspected and Forrester want to put bids out for the work at this time. Brandon included a list of prequalified vendors for the Commissioners to review and will do a Request of Proposal for three quotes for the work to be completed.

IN THE MATTER OF JAIL LOBBY: Sheriff Hodges gave an update on the Jail lobby upgrade. Work Space Solutions is working with the County maintenance department to have changes so they are properly done. Three bids from contractors have been submitted for review. Half the cost of this project will be funded by the Commissary Fund. Quotes for the work are being reviewed at this time for the construction but are waiting on final proposals to complete the work.

IN THE MATTER OF MS4 REGULATIONS: Chris Kaufman and Patti Smith from BLN made a quick presentation on the County requirements for regulating the storm water system in the unincorporated areas of Whitley County. The requirements have changed due to the population increase and an actual Development Plan will have to be implemented. This is an unfunded mandate by the State to meet regulations. The County might want to look into entering a Memorandum of Agreement with the City to help with the cost. There is a lot of testing, record keeping and regulations that will be reviewed for this program.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Minutes from the March 17, 2014 Commissioner's meeting were reviewed, Rethlake made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 2/0 vote. The disbursement of claim's report for April 7, 2014 was reviewed. After discussion on some of the claims, a motion to allow the claims was made by Rethlake seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT: A Utility Permit from CenturyLink to use the County Highway Right-of-Way on Meridian Road, North of Co Rd 1000 S for a length of 465 feet. The work will place buried cable facilities for service and plant improvements for new service at Six Star Farms LLC. A motion to allow the permit was made by Rethlake to sign, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 2/0 vote.


IN THE MATTER OF BUILDING MAINTENANCE: Mark Sturtevant, Maintenance Supervisor, presented a list of requests for building maintenance that needs reviewed. The first item was a return Air/Exhaust Fan for the Government Center, the cost will be \$37,649 and is allocated to be paid for out of CEDIT Funding. The second request is for the Sump and Sewage Pump pit monitoring system for the Government Center, the next item is the water damage to the basement in the Government Center. The total cost for mitigation to clean up actual water is \$31,205.48; the cost for restoration from Paul Davis is \$10432.34. Three other local contractors have reviewed the area but T & L Construction, Richmond Construction and Carey Construction did not want to bid the job or didn't return calls. The emergency installation of two new sump pumps has been completed by Havel Service for a cost estimated to be around \$12,000 but the final bill has not been received yet. The final request was for the repair or replacement of a heat pump that controls the heating and cooling for the Security and Prosecutor's office in the Courthouse. The repair will cost is around \$1875-2919 and the replacement cost will be \$6400-8068 depending on the vendor used. There are 18 units of heat pumps in the Court House and they are over 24 years old. All of this information will be presented to the County Council for recommendations tomorrow in their monthly meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR: Pam Smith, County Coordinator, presented a Request to Use County Facilities from Steve Weaver for Child Awareness Month on Tuesday April 8, 2014 from 5-6pm. After discussion a motion to allow was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 2/0 vote. A reminder to all County and City employees that the Social Committee is having pictures taken with the Easter Bunny from 9-10 am this Saturday April 12, 2014 at Bones Theatre.


IN OTHER BUSINESS: The monthly Veteran's Service report was reviewed for March. Reimbursement for the Accreditation and computer upgrades for the VSO has been submitted to the State. Auditor McGuire reported that the Workman's Comp Audit from Travelers showed a shortfall and John Lafever from Star Insurance will review before we make the additional payment.

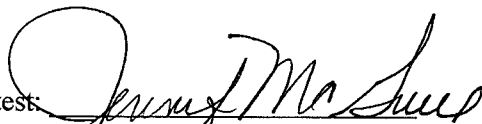
With no further input from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schrumpf, Chairman

 Absent
Don Amber, Vice Chairman


Tom Rethlake

Attest: 
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor

