

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

March 4, 2014

The Whitley County Council met in regular session on Tuesday March 4, 2014 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Vice Chairman Kim Wheeler, Jim Bayman, Bill Overdeer, Glen LaRue and Paula Reimers. Tom Western and John Barrett were absent. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Commissioner Don Amber, Alan Tio-EDC, Shelby Longenbaugh, Greg Stalcup, Jason Meyer, Jon Shaw, Mark Hodges, Christie Workman and Mary Hartman.

Vice Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order and pledged the flag.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSARY REPORT: Sheriff Hodges had distributed the semi-annual Commissary Report for the last six months of 2013 for the County Council to review and was present to field any questions or concerns they had for expenditures out of the Fund. Large payments were made to pay off the Jail Tracker computer program and the other large cost was for uniforms for the department. Councilman Overdeer "Thanked" Sheriff Hodges for the report and likes the way the Fund is handled for expenses that are necessary.

IN THE MATTER OF EXTENSION OFFICE: Cindy Barnett came before the Council to introduce the new Extension educator John Woodmansee. His start date was January 21, 2014. He will be splitting his time between Whitley and Noble County. He has 20 years of experience in the Extension field and comes from Grant County previously. He holds a Master's degree in Agriculture. Invitations for the Annual Meeting have been mailed out and Barnett hopes some of the Council members will be able to attend. The overall number of kids enrolled in 4-H is down over the last five years but Whitley County still shows almost 900 kids in the programs which is a great percentage for the County.

IN THE MATTER OF EDC REQUEST: Alan Tio, EDC, come before the Council to request funding for two new projects in Whitley County. The funding will come from the CEDIT On Site/Off Site project. The first request is for SMED-Ops, LLC that is a new division of Sites Medical, LLC that will use the funds for testing services and prototype manufacturing capabilities. The project will create up to 45 new full-time jobs at an average wage of \$21.15 per hour. The EDC Investment Board recommends \$100,000 in Revolving Loan Funds (RLF from the CEDIT-based Growth Venture Fund) to this project. The next project is Targamite, LLC looking to locate in Northeast Indiana for robotic research and development for target systems. The company plans to create up to 27 new jobs full-time and will outsource production to manufacturers in Whitley County and Northeast Indiana. The EDC Investment Board recommends \$50,000 in CEDIT incentive and \$50,000 in RLF from the CEDIT based Growth Venture Fund for this project. After discussion a motion by Overdeer to support both projects, seconded by Reimers and carried with a 5/0 vote by Council. Tio will have an overall EDC update in April for the County Council meeting for ongoing projects.

IN THE MATTER OF PASSAGES: Jason Meyer, CEO, passed out literature with an update on the new Creative Learning Center located at the former Lehmborg Medical Office building. The list of curriculums offered to the clients is more classroom style and smaller groups. Meyers wanted to "Thank" the County for their continued support of the programs and contributions. Meyers stated that if any member of the Council would like a tour of the new facility to please contact him.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Commissioner Amber gave a report from the Commissioners meeting

- The most important update for the Council was the current flood in the basement of the Government Center over the weekend of Feb 22. The sump pumps had failed and the alarms for the pumps didn't work. Paul Davis Restoration out of Fort Wayne has removed all the water and the cost is \$23,878.85. All the damage has been reported to the insurance companies and at this time is still pending on what the final cost will be and if covered what deductible will be applied. A motion by Bayman to pay for the water removal out of Rainy Day Fund at this time, with discussion Reimers wants any reimbursement from Insurance to be put back in the Rainy Day Fund. The motion was seconded by LaRue and carried with a 5/0 vote. More estimates are wanted to complete the final repair work from local contractors compared to the estimate from Paul Davis doing the work. Mark Sturtevant will be notified of some contractors and bids will be compared for the work. The replacement of the two sump pumps from Havel will cost approximately \$10-12,000. The alarm system will also need to be looked at so it will contact the Maintenance Department or the Sheriff's department if they fail again and not just be an alarm going off at the back of the Government Center. Further preventative maintenance will have to be looked at for the equipment.

- The Veteran Service Office will be moving to Meeting Room E on the second floor of the Government Center. With the State requirements that the office be staffed and three part-time people are now in the current office in the tower is not enough space. The phone and computer hookups are being installed, furniture will be used out of the Assessor and Auditor's offices and an extra computer will come from the public computers if Jim Becher can upgrade it to save cost. This will give the office more room and privacy for conducting their business with the Veterans of Whitley County.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The Minutes from the February 4, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Councilman Bayman made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by LaRue and carried with a 5/0 vote by members.

IN THE MATTER OF LIBRARY APPOINTMENT: A letter dated February 17, 2014 from the South Whitley Library requesting the re-appointment of board member Robert Koontz to the South Whitley Community Public Library for his second term to run through July 3, 2017. After discussion a motion to reappoint Robert Koontz was made by Bayman, seconded by Reimers and carried with a 5/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: The monthly Veteran Service Officer report was circulated. The Profit and Loss Statement from the Humane Shelter was reviewed. Councilman Wheeler questioned when the roof work was going to be done on the Courthouse this year. Auditor McGuire informed the Council that the Abstract has been approved by the State Auditor's office and the Spring bills will be mailed the week of April 7, 2014 for on-time billing.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Absent
Thomas Western, Chairman

Kim Wheeler
Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman

Jim Bayman
Jim Bayman

Glen LaRue
Glen LaRue

Absent
John Barrett

William N. Overdeer
William N. Overdeer

Paula G. Reimers
Paula G. Reimers

Attest:
Jennifer McGuire
Jennifer McGuire, Auditor