

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

July 8, 2014

The Whitley County Council met in regular session on Tuesday July 8, 2014 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Tom Western, Vice Chairman Kim Wheeler, Jim Bayman, Bill Overdeer, Glen LaRue, John Barrett and Paula Reimers. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Commissioner George Schrupf, Alan Tio-EDC, Michael Barton, Tim Misoron, Adam Hurley, Ted Hurley, Mark Gareiss, David Smith, Kathy Shively, Sheriff Hodges, Scott Jones, Alex Winger and Mary Hartman.

Chairman Western called the meeting to order and pledged the flag.

IN THE MATTER OF DISPATCH EQUIPMENT UPGRADE: Sheriff Hodges presented the final Quote from J & K Communications, Inc. in regards to the replacement of radios and the upgrade to the existing Dispatch equipment. The final amount is \$385,673.26 and a Lease Quote from Star Bank was included for a five year plan with annual payments of \$81,916.00 starting on September 1, 2015. Sheriff Hodges explained the increase from the original amount was the need for hand held radios to be upgraded to receive both 800 MHZ and VHF, a light post for the radio consoles and the requirement to Project #25 for compliance with a State requirement. After discussion Bayman made a motion to approve the Lease for the Radio Project with J & K, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 6/1 vote with LaRue casting the nay vote. The installation will start the first of August and be completed by end of September per J & K Communications.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDC REPORT: Alan Tio from the EDC made a Midyear Update to the Council regarding business retentions and expansions, business attraction, agribusiness initiative, community development and small business & entrepreneurship initiative programs. Tio also discussed the EDC's budget for the upcoming 2015 year and developing program budgets for the EDC initiative programs that need to be funded. There are currently seventeen active tax abatements for Whitley County, with all but two, Five Star Distributing (-3) and Fort Wayne Metals (-2) meeting or exceeding their Statement of Benefits goals. The actual number of jobs created is 2234 and the average salary of the jobs is \$49,085. The loss of assessed value revenue is 26,708,075 or in tax dollars to the County \$108,350. Tio wanted to "Thank" the County Council for their continued support of the EDC and its programs.

IN THE MATTER OF DRAINAGE DEPARTMENT: Brandon Forrester came before the Council to address his Drainage Finance clerk who will be retiring on August 29, 2014. He is looking at replacing her and would like to request a four week overlap in the training process for the job which will cause a shortfall in the appropriation at the end of the year in the amount of \$2400 more or less and wanted the Council to be aware of the situation. The Council gave their blessing and will address the final amount when it is known at the end of the year for the additional funding.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY HIGHWAY: Michael Barton gave an update to the Council from the Highway. Barton stated that he will be using the bids from the prior year to purchase two more Highway trucks before the end of the year. The Summer sealing program has started and will be in the southwest portion of the County.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Chairman Schrupf gave a report from the Commissioners meeting

- Dani Tippmann submitted bids for the house at the Museum is to be painted; the low bid was from Lee Honaker in the amount of \$8275.00. After discussion of funding Barrett made a motion to allow the project and pay for it out of Cumulative Capital in the amount of \$8275.00, seconded by Bayman and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- FEMA reimbursement Grant final amount was \$57502.70 for the Winter storm in January from 5- 9, 2014
- Print Management Contract will be with Office Concepts after approval from Attorney Sigler for the five year Contract, this will be a 40% lower cost than the existing program
- To increase uniformity the Personnel Committee is implementing a Policy Change effective 1/1/2015 for all new hires, they will receives pay increases over a three year period.

- Pam Smith proposed employee wage increase for the Whitley County employees for the upcoming 2015 budgets showing a 3 or 4% increase to stay in line with inflation data collected.
- The EMA Board has hired a new director Charlie Heflin, and the Commissioners gave a favorable recommendation. Councilman Bayman wanted a call for a vote if the position should be Full-time or Part-time. After discussion of other counties positions, public safety, elimination of deputy and job descriptions a 6/1 vote was taken with Bayman casting the nay vote for the Full-time position as the EMA Director.

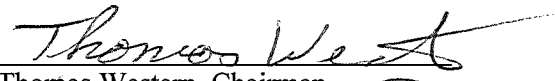
IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The Minutes from the June 3, 2014, meeting were reviewed. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by LaRue and carried with a 7/0 vote by members.

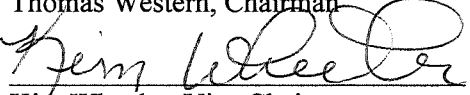
IN THE MATTER OF THE 2015 BUDGETS: Auditor McGuire passed out the Council's budget binders for the upcoming 2015 budget meetings. The department head meetings will be July 22, 2014 and a schedule has been sent out. The binders show existing fund balances for the year, expenditures as of June 30, 2014 and appropriation requests from budget Form #1 submitted as request in 2015.

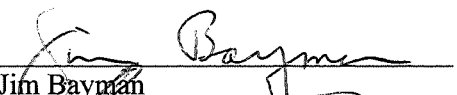
IN OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Western will sign all the approved CF-1's for the 2014 pay 2015 Abatements that are in compliance with the Statement of Benefits. A reimbursement in the amount of \$5693.61 will be put back in the Cumulative Capital Fund from the insurance for the sump pump failure in the Government Center. The sale of County cars will be in an Auction on July 19, 2014.

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

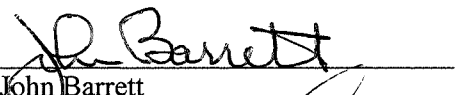
WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL



 Thomas Western, Chairman



 Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman

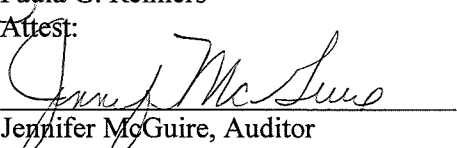

 Jim Bayman


 Glen LaRue


 John Barrett


 William N. Overdeer


 Paula G. Reimers

Attest:

 Jennifer McGuire, Auditor

