

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

October 6, 2014

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, October 6, 2014 at 1:00 pm in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman George Schrumpf, Don Amber, and Tom Rethlake. Others in attendance were County Attorney Dan Sigler, County Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Pamela Smith, Steve Michel, Paula Worden, Laurell Hodges, Rich Beck, David Smith, Michael Barton, Barry Grossman, Tim Misiora, Gary Wilson, Stanley Crum, Scott Wagner, Dave White, Dan Weigold, Rita Sauders, Mark Sturtevant, and Donna Bowers.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: The Economic Development Commission needs two spots appointed in order to proceed with a bond inducement for Micropulse. Commissioner Rethlake is one of the members but the Commission needs two more to take official action. Attorney Sigler also tried to follow up on the Camp Samaritan situation and he has still not heard anything back from them. Sigler was also able to communicate with Cedar Bridge's lawyer and sent an agreement to them for a payment plan. If they do not meet the payment plan, they agreed that it would go to court and we would be repaid with interest. This agreement is in the process of getting signed. The Supreme Court refused to hear the cases on same sex marriage in the five states that were up for potential review. The Whitley County Clerk is to begin performing these types of ceremonies if they meet the other legal requirements. Commissioner Rethlake requested on behalf of Paula Worden for action to be taken on the feasibility study. He stated that the County Attorney has reviewed it and it is just something to get the project started for October 13, 2014. A motion to approve the DLZ contract was made by Commissioner Rethlake and was seconded by Commissioner Amber. The approval passed with a 3/0 vote. There was also discussion about the Sheriff's new wages and contract for the upcoming year for the next four years.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDENDUM TO THE TREASURY AGREEMENT FOR THE TAX ESCROW SYSTEM: Laurell Hodges, the County Treasurer, stated that the addendum is specifically requesting an additional \$1,750 for enhancements to the escrow program. The first two years was based on the total number of parcels in the County. Starting in the third year, they want to bill us based on the actual number of users that utilize the service. In 2014 the first six months, there have been approximately 1,521 users. In 2013 the first six months, there were 1,699 users. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the addendum to the treasury agreement for the tax escrow system. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF WOOD-LAND-LAKES RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT: Stanley Crum, representing Wood-Land-Lakes highlighted certain aspects of the minutes for their last meeting. Mr. Crum stated that he wants to continue to seek the conservation easements of various properties and defend the existing ones. In the matter of appointing a representative of Wood-Land-Lakes, Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to reappoint Stanley Crum. Commissioner Amber seconded the motion and it passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF A WELL LIABILITY RELEASE: Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented a well liability release to the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the well liability release and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Rethlake. The motion carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF A CONCERN OVER A SEWER LINE: Gary Wilson stated that a new sewer line is being installed on an abandoned roadway. He is concerned due to a large maple tree being in the way of where they are going to dig for the new sewer line. He feels that

there is a potential threat to the tree falling on his house or falling and hurting someone. The Commissioners stated that they are not liable for the abandoned roadway. They are going to get an opinion from Attorney Sigler on who is responsible for this large maple tree. Commissioner Schrumpf recommended that Mr. Wilson attend the Tri Lakes Regional Sewer District meeting to potentially resolve the problem.

IN THE MATTER OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY: Whitley County GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold presented informational background on aerial photography that he hopes to have completed in the spring of 2015. The aerial photography would cost the County \$101,308. This includes higher resolution of the photography and it would enable certain departments to view all four sides of the houses in Whitley County. This will allow for highly useful and valuable oblique images. Dan stated that he will receive most of his funding from the Assessor's office. He went with this one specific company is due to the fact that they are the only company that is able to fly for oblique photography. The Commissioners gave their pre-approval to continue with the project.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY: Highway director Michael Barton stated that he would like to assist in funding the aerial photography for the GIS department. Michael also stated that he would like the Commissioners to sign a resolution to pay for the lease on new County trucks. There would be three payments that total \$170,420. The three payments would be in November of 2014, January of 2015, and January of 2016. After these three payments the County would own the trucks. The resolution that has been requested needs to be signed only by Commissioner Schrumpf. The Commissioners would like Attorney Sigler to look over the resolution before it is signed. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the resolution 2014-06 as long as attorney Sigler approves it and gives Commissioner Schrumpf the authority to sign it. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote. Highway director Michael Barton also discussed the map of the roads in Whitley County that have been milled or sealed. He also gave the Commissioners a copy of what roads he would like to do work to next year. The Commissioners and Mr. Barton also discussed the upcoming winter and that the County needs to have an action plan with the schools for transportation.

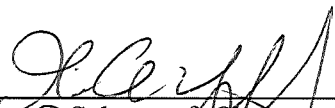
IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the September 15, 2014 meeting were reviewed. There was one correction under in the matter of the County Attorney. The minutes should read "Cedar Bridge" not "Cedar Bride". With the corrections to be made, Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The claims were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the claims which was seconded by Commissioner Rethlake. The motion to approve the claim passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the 2015 Holiday Calendar, the Commissioners tabled the calendar until the next meeting on October 20, 2014.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Mark Sturtevant from the maintenance department provided the Commissioners with quotes for a new tractor that is equipped with a snow blower. The Kubota quote was \$34,122.26 and the John Deere quote came in at \$33,800. Mr. Sturtevant also provided the Commissioners with quotes from other sources for snow removal such as Yount Landscaping and Shively Snow Service. After much discussion, Commissioner Amber made a motion to send the decision of the purchase for the snow blower to the Council. Commissioner Rethlake seconded the motion and it passed with a 3/0 vote. Mark provided the Commissioners with three quotes for a water softener. The first was Heat Power Engineering for \$5,585. The second quote was by Culligan for \$6,145 for a metered on demand softener. The third quote that Mark attempted to obtain was by Flow-Tech and they declined to give a quote. Commissioner Amber gave a favorable motion to have the water softener installed which was seconded by Commissioner Rethlake. The motion passed with a 3/0 vote. Dan White from the Loon Lake Property Owner's Association came before the Commissioners to request them to sign their approval of a land preservation project to move forward on Loon Lake. The undeveloped parcels of land would be used for recreational activities for the public. All three Commissioners signed

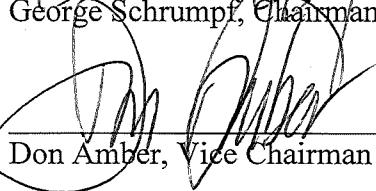
in favor of the project to move forward. County Coordinator Pam Smith informed the Commissioners that the City and County Health Fair is coming up soon. She also informed the Commissioners that there was a revision to the County travel policy. The policy change stated "Whitley County elected officials and department heads will not be reimbursed for business travel, training, or other expenses that are considered non-related to their specific job function, unless otherwise approved by the County Commissioners. The amount approved must have been budgeted in departmental budgets or else specifically approved by the County Council". A motion to approve the policy change was made by Commissioner Rethlake and seconded by Commissioner Amber. The policy change passed with a 3/0 vote to add it to the County Employee Handbook. Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented three separate Utility Permits to the Commissioners. All three Utility Permits were approved by the Commissioners. The first permit was from Frontier and a motion to approve was made by Commissioner Amber and seconded by Commissioner Rethlake. The motion passed with a 3/0 vote. The second permit was from Frontier as well. A motion to approve the second permit was made by Commissioner Rethlake, seconded by Commissioner Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. The last utility permit was requested by Century Link. A motion to approve the permit was made by Commissioner Rethlake, seconded by Commissioner Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrupf adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




George Schrupf, Chairman



Don Amber, Vice Chairman



Tom Rethlake

Attest: 

Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or a list of names, located in the lower-left quadrant of the page. The text is faint and difficult to decipher.