

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 17, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, February 17, 2015 at 1:00 pm in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Tom Rethlake, Don Amber and George Schrupf. Others in attendance were County Attorney Dan Sigler, Chief Deputy Auditor Vicky Schrader, County Coordinator/HR Director Pam Smith, Brandon Forrester, Paula Worden, Council Member Tom Western, Michael Barton, April Miller, Linda Deck, Dave Sewell, Wendell and Lora Enyeart, Scott Wagner, Joan Null, Charles Heflin, Mark Parker and Sheriff Marcus Gatton.

Chairman Rethlake called the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Sigler reported that the signed settlement agreement was delivered to the attorney for CedarBridge and to date no payment has been made. Attorney Sigler will file a motion for judgment. Attorney Sigler is reviewing a proposed amendment to the Maximus Consulting IV-D program contract but needs further information from Debbie Beers, Whitley County Clerk of the Courts. He also working on the food service proposed ordinance. Attorney Sigler reported that the Judge has denied the motion for a 120 day stay in the Boseker matter and the Commissioners may now accept bids for demolition and cleanup of the property.

Family members of Mr. Boseker present at the meeting objected to the demolition; however Attorney Sigler reported that the demolition is required.

IN THE MATTER OF BIDS FOR DEMOLITION AND CLEANUP OF THE BOSEKER PROPERTY: Scott Wagner from the Health Department re-presented bids to the Commissioners that were previously read at the February 2, 2012 meeting. Chairman Rethlake read the bids and they are as follows: Kim L. Reiff \$10,640.00; Earth Pros, Inc. \$13,950.00 and DL Bailey Construction \$9,750.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Schrupf to accept the DL Bailey Construction bid in the amount of \$9,750.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Chairman Rethlake asked Scott Wagner to notify DL Bailey Construction to proceed with the demolition.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY'S WORKER COMPENSATION POLICY: County employee Wendell Enyeart was present to express his concerns regarding the County's worker compensation policy. Attorney Sigler will check into federal law to see if it contradicts the County's policy. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table this topic until the County attorney can check into the matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schrupf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF JOINT PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT: Dave Sewell of the Planning and Building Department presented the 2014 Plan Commission's annual report and highlighted various facts and figures contained in the report. He stated that the annual report is also on the County website. Dave also noted that he is working on the revision of flood plain maps which will be effective May 4th.

IN THE MATTER OF A CREDIT FUND AMENDMENT REQUEST: County Engineer Brandon Forrester presented an amendment request for the 2015-2016 CREDIT Plan for Bridge Replacements. He stated that revenues are down for the Cum Bridge Fund and the purchase costs of materials are increasing. He is requesting an additional \$225,000 for 2015 and \$225,000 for 2016. If unable to receive additional funds he would have to cut at least one bridge replacement and one culvert replacement. Commissioner Schrupf stated that since this was not in the CREDIT plan at present it would have to be looked at further.

IN THE MATTER OF SNOW EMERGENCY ORDINANCE: Charles Heflin, EMA Director, presented a revised snow emergency ordinance for the Commissioners' consideration. The intent is to update the categories to be more uniform with the state. Commissioner Amber had some objections to the content of the proposed ordinance and the Commissioners would like to review it further. Charles will provide a copy of the state template to the Commissioners for review. After discussion the proposed ordinance was tabled at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF DEPARTMENT GAS CARDS: Sheriff Marcus Gatton was present to ask about the feasibility of having one type of credit card rather than multiple gas cards for the Sheriff department. When traveling out of the County it is sometimes difficult to find a station that accepts the particular gas cards the Sheriff department has. A motion was made by Commissioner Amber to allow the Sheriff department to get a Visa or MasterCard credit card to replace the gas cards they are now using. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schrupf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF CREDIT CARDS: Paula Worden of Community Corrections was present to request an additional (extra) credit card to have one available for commissary purchases if someone also

needs to use the card at a conference. County Coordinator Pam Smith will take care of having an additional card issued. Commissioner Amber requested that the Emergency Management Director stop using the Staples card he has and to cancel the account. The County has other purchasing programs in place to use. Since there is a credit on the Staples account a refund will need to be requested.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Director Michael Barton gave a report of the recent snow situations. Commissioner Schrumpf said that the Commissioners have had good reports from the public in regard to the clearing of roads.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR/ HR DIRECTOR: Pam Smith, County Coordinator/HR Director reported that a County dispatcher would like a determination from the Commissioners on whether that position (dispatcher) is considered a 'Public Safety' or 'Non-Public Safety' employee. After some discussion Commissioner Amber made the motion to table further discussion until the County attorney can review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. Pam presented several requests to use County facilities: Columbia City Main Street Association has requested the use of the Courthouse gazebo and lawn on Saturday June 20, 2015 from 6 am to 11 pm for Big G's 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament/Concert on the Square. The motion was made by Commissioner Schrumpf to approve the request and was seconded by Commissioner Amber. The motion passed with a 3/0 vote. Columbia City Main Street Association has requested the use of the Courthouse gazebo and lawn on Saturday July 18, 2015 from 2 pm to 11 pm for Concert on the Square. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. Columbia City Main Street Association also requested the use of the Courthouse lawn and gazebo on Saturday August 15, 2015 from 2 pm to 11 pm for Concert on the Square. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request and it was seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf. The motion passed with a 3/0 vote. Pam reported that a laptop computer for the Prosecutor's office was purchased through Preferred IT and will be paid for out of the Prosecutor's funds.


IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the February 2, 2015 Commissioner meeting were reviewed. After discussion Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The claims were reviewed by the Commissioners. After review and discussion a motion to approve the claims was made by Commissioner Amber, seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF 2015 TAX RATES: 2014 payable 2015 tax rates were received by the Auditor. Copies of the rates were presented to the Commissioners for review.

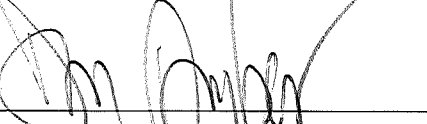
IN OTHER BUSINESS: Unpaid property tax by businesses was discussed by Chairman Rethlake. The Chairman also reported on the situation with the jail walls and Premier Coatings. Attorney Sigler questioned the warranty for the work and Chairman Rethlake said the contract is the warranty. The contract includes a statement to 'see warranty'. Sheriff Gatton will check his file for the warranty so that Attorney Sigler can review it. Chairman Rethlake had several questions for Sheriff Gatton regarding the video system. The Sheriff commended emergency personnel on the accident cleanup this past Saturday. Paula Worden reported on the addition of 6 beds to the work release facility. She also reported that Community Corrections is looking at replacing their server at a cost of approximately \$15,000. Paula won't know until sometime this spring how much their grant will be. A request by Gary Gordon for appointment to the local alcohol beverage board was reviewed by the Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Amber to approve the appointment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber made a request of the Auditor's office to post schedules of upcoming Commissioner, Council and Plan Commission meetings on the website as soon as it can be done. He would also like County holidays posted. Commissioner Amber said there were some minutes of meetings that were not posted by the former Auditor and would like to see those added as well. Chairman Rethlake discussed copy usage by the departments. Commissioner Amber said that he feels that each department should be responsible for paying for their own copies in the 2016 budget. Chairman Rethlake presented estimates for repair of a Health department vehicle after a minor accident. The estimates were as follows: Clifford's Custom Collision \$431.69 and Buchanan Automotive \$443.70. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Clifford's Custom Collision to do the repairs. Commissioner Schrumpf seconded the motion and it passed with a 3/0 vote. Worker compensation figures were reviewed by the Commissioners. They also discussed the use of CEDIT funds, as well as the possibility of snow emergency delays for the County buildings. Chairman Rethlake reported that the Safety Committee would be meeting this coming Friday. Sheriff Gatton discussed the possibility of the Sheriff department giving their 2008 Explorer, which they are not using, to EMA to replace the vehicle that was totaled in a recent accident. After discussion a motion to approve giving the Sheriff department's 2008 Explorer to EMA was made by Commissioner Amber, seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Commissioner Amber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

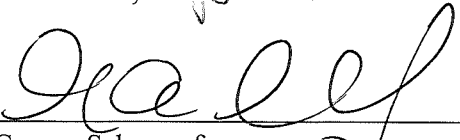
WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




Tom Rethlake, Chairman



Don Amber, Vice Chairman



George Schrupf

Attest: 

Vicky Schrader, Chief Deputy Auditor

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