

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 2, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, March 2, 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 Schrumpf. Others in attendance were County Attorney Dan Sigler, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Mark Parker Viv Sade, Debbie Beers, Joan Null, Mary Hartman, Katie Dewitt, Liane Minear, William Simpson, Cindy Barnett, David Addison, Charlies Heflin, Sheriff Marcus Gatton, and Jason Spencer.

Chairman Rethlake called the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Sigler stated that he has looked over the Maximus contract for the Clerk's office. After review, the changes to the amendment for the contract are to keep the contract in line with corporate policy. The contract now also has an end date, which it did not before. At this time, he would like to speak to them further on the matter and have the contract on hold until further notice. Attorney Sigler also informed the Commissioners that he is looking into a food establishment ordinance. This is in regard to the food truck that is being requested at Park 30. The Commissioners would like to have the health board look over the ordinance first before they approve it. After discussion, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to table the ordinance until Dr. Hatcher could review it, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF POLLING LOCATIONS: Whitley County Clerk Debbie Beers presented the polling locations to the Commissioners. This is for the Municipal Primary Election and it will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 for the Southeast Council District of Columbia City only. After review of the locations, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the locations, seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Debbie also informed the Commissioners that the Title IV-D documents in the basement of the Government Center in file management need to be secured with a cage, away from all the other documents. This new information came about when a State worker visited the Clerk's office and said they could be written up if they are not caged and they could also lose the incentive money. Title IV-D money can be used to pay for it and she would like to have it taken care of as soon as possible.

IN THE MATTER OF THE X-RAY MACHINE AT THE COURTHOUSE AND THE DEPARTMNET VEHICLES: Sheriff Gatton stated that the X-Ray machine at the Courthouse is not properly working. They have had the machine since 2006 and it was bought from Auto Clear. A new machine would cost \$17,442 plus tax. If they decide to fix the current machine, it would cost \$7,300. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to make a favorable pass to the Council, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Rethlake, and passed with a 2/1 vote with Commissioner Amber voting against. Sheriff Gatton also presented the vehicles that he would like to purchase to the Commissioners. He stated that the department will be getting rid of four vehicles and purchasing three. They would like to buy two Dodge Pickup trucks and a Dodge Charger. The resale value on trucks is much higher than cars and they also do much better in the winter months. The gas mileage has also been around the same as the Dodge Chargers. After discussion, Commissioner Amber made a motion for a favorable pass to the Council to purchase the vehicles as presented, seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: There are many changes to the Whitley County 4-H Youth Program this year. Dave Addison reported that Statewide, the 4-H programs went to a web based enrollment. This helps keep track of how many people do enroll in the program. The enrollees are also able to make updates to their information on the website. They are looking into expanding their shooting sports for Whitley County 4-H Projects. They now offer archery but would also like to offer air rifle. The renovation of the oldest building on the 4-H grounds is almost complete and they are hoping to renovate a few other buildings. There will also be some changes for the County 4-H Fair in regard to entertainment. They will be having a concert on Tuesday night the week of the fair. He also stated that they will have their annual meeting on March 25, 2015 at 6:00 pm. The other event that they have coming up is the 4-H Fun Night event on March 20, 2015 at 4:00 pm.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Director Michael Barton gave the Commissioners a highway update. He stated that this winter is going well and that all of the equipment is in good shape and the new trucks are doing well. There was discussion about frost laws for the roads. Michael will be checking what other Counties have in regard to their frost laws and what they have for an ordinance. Having frost laws in place would allow for roads to last longer before needing repair. Michael also informed the Commissioners that he would like to purchase a new Gradall. He is hoping that they can purchase this piece of equipment with a lease and they will be keeping the old one.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the February 17, 2015 Commissioner meeting were reviewed. After discussion Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf, and Commissioner Rethlake made one correction. The correction was under "In the matter of bids for demolition and cleanup of the Boseker property". It reads February 2, 2012 and it should read February 2, 2015. With this correction, the motion continued for 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 OTHER BUSINESS: The Commissioners reviewed a grant for the Emergency Management Department. The Emergency Management Performance Grant is for the 2014 EMPG Salary Reimbursement for the period of 01/01/2014 to 12/31/2014. The total amount of the grant is \$20,958.38. After review, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Auditor Jana Schinbeckler informed the Commissioners that the IRS business rate per mile to the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber requested that she look into the State's rate and discuss it further about it at the next meeting. Commissioner Schrumpf informed the Commissioners that the Redevelopment Commission is looking into different alternative for the 600 E road project. They are hoping to move/widen the railroad crossing and at this point in time, the cost will be anywhere between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000. He has asked highway director Michael Barton to see if it would be possible for the highway department to do the job and how much it would cost. The cost for the highway department to complete the job would be about \$237,850. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that he will be presenting this information to the Redevelopment Commission at their next meeting. Commissioner Rethlake stated that he currently went to a Safety Committee Meeting and there will now be signs above the doors in regard to safety. He also attended the Mayor Commissioner Meeting. There is money that they are looking into dispersing for different projects. Fort Wayne is pushing for our 9 County consortium to get something. The breakdown is 20% local, 20% State, and 60% businesses. Commissioner Rethlake also went to the Parkview Advisory Board meeting. They are looking at a smaller EMS truck overall and there are some problems that were stated at the meeting if they decide to purchase a smaller truck. In regard to the electronics in the Commissioner meeting room, to bring the technology up to date Commissioner Rethlake has received two quotes. The two quotes were for \$56,000 and \$22,000. In regard to the landfill, SES Environmental would like to perform methane monitoring as the next step and they have heard nothing from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Commissioner Rethlake also gave an update on the amount of people at the Work Release Facility. There are 68 total and 64 of them are Whitley County, three are transfers from other Counties, and one is from the Department of Correction.

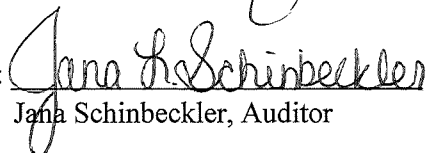
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Tom Rethlake, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


George Schrumpf

Attest: 
Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor