

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 6, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, April 6, 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 and George Schrupf. Absent was Vice Chairman Don Amber. Others in attendance were County Attorney Dan Sigler, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Nick Rupert, David Quilhot, Stanley Crum, Joan Null, Mary Hartman, and Highway Director Michael Barton.

Chairman Rethlake called the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Sigler presented the ordinance to the Commissioners to reduce the weight limit on bridges for County Engineer Brandon Forrester. He stated that the weight limit changes can be changed by vote from the Commissioners. After discussion, Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve the weight limit changes, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 2/0 vote. Sigler also gave a report on the elevator contracts that the County has. He has been working with Mark Sturtevant to see what we can do differently because of the price difference between the two contracts. Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented a fee ordinance to the Commissioners. After review, the Commissioners tabled the ordinance until it had been approved by the fee committee.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDC CREDIT REQUEST: Katie Dewitt from the Whitley County Economic Development Corporation presented a request to the Commissioners for \$10,000 in CREDIT funds from the onsite/offsite projects. This would be to support two emerging opportunities. The first is the Regional Cities Initiative which seeks to identify external funding sources for quality of place projects and if successful will likely include the state matching funds. The second project is investing in manufacturing communities' partnership which involves Allen, Kosciusko, and Whitley County. The counties are collaborating on an IMCP designation to support the medical device manufacturing sector along US 30. After discussion, Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve the request with the approval of the Council, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE FINANCIAL INTERIM REPORT: Chad Burch from Phillips Financial presented the financial interim report from August 1, 2014 to January 31, 2015 to the Commissioners. He gave an overview of the claims that the County currently has and stated that there is an uptake on outpatient utilization with employees. Chad gave handouts to the Commissioners and they reviewed the handouts during the meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PEABODY PUBLIC LIBRARY UPDATE: Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public library gave an annual report for 2014 to the Commissioners. Mary stated that 2014 was a very successful year for the library. It was named the Jewel of the Community by the Chamber of Commerce and they have been able to offer more computer classes than they had before. For 2014, 161,634 people visited the library and 11,676 of those people came to the library to use the meeting rooms available. Mary also informed the Commissioners that there are many different programs that the library has to offer and hopes that this year is just as successful as last year.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ORDINANCE FOR FLOOD HAZARD AREAS: Cathy Gardner from the planning and building department presented an amended ordinance for flood hazard areas to the Commissioners. After review of the ordinance, Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve ordinance 2015-03, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF A ROAD CONDITION: County resident David Quilhot expressed his concern to the Commissioners for the road condition of 1000 south. He stated that the highway department has done work on the road in the past but it did not hold up as planned. Highway Director Michael Barton stated that they have a plan for this year for new roads and replacements. He believes that there is something that the highway department can do to improve the road condition for 1000 south.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EXTENSION UPDATE: Cindy Barnett from the Extension office gave an update and a 2015 annual report to the Commissioners for the extension office. She covered several different programs that they are offering this year, including their Signature Programs, and some 4-H Youth Program Facts. Some of the Signature Programs include Dining with Diabetes, Captain Cash, Where Does your Money Go?, Parenting Counts, etc. This year 779 youth are enrolled in the Whitley County 4-H program and 16 of them are participating in the Whitley County Youth Leadership Program. She hopes that 2015 is going to be another great year for the Purdue Extension Whitley County Office.

IN THE MATTER OF THE WOOD LAND LAKES UPDATE: Stanley Crum from Wood Land Lakes gave an update to the Commissioners from the last two meetings they have had. The Wood Land Lakes minutes from October 2014 covered various information which consisted of a 3rd quarter

Treasurer's report and their 2015 annual plan. They established the Land Committee which consists of Mike Yoder and Rick Meyer. Their goal for 2015 is to create a sustainable financial plan. The minutes from March 2015 went over several different items. The 2014 internal audit report was given, the executive committee actions were approved, and they are also considering changing their website/logo.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Highway Director Michael Barton gave the Commissioners an update on the highway department. He stated that they have about four operations going on each day and they are using the patcher for the roads. There are pot holes being filled with cold mix and they plan to fix all of the pot holes before they start on new construction. Commissioner Rethlake stated that they need dirt at the landfill and Michael said that they have plenty of dirt to haul to the landfill if they need to.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the March 16, 2015 Commissioner meeting were reviewed. After discussion Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Rethlake, and passed with a 2/0 vote. The claims were reviewed by the Commissioners. After review and discussion, a motion to approve the claims was made by Commissioner Schrumpf, seconded by Commissioner Rethlake, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

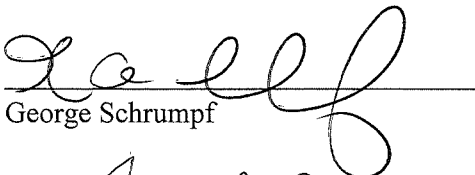
IN OTHER BUSINESS: County Coordinator Pam Smith presented three requests to the Commissioners for the use of County facilities. The first request was from Donna Smith for a wedding ceremony to use the Courthouse Gazebo on Friday, July 24, 2015. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 2/0 vote. The second request was from the Whitley County 4H for a "Tour the Courthouse" event to use the Courthouse and the Courthouse Square on Thursday, April 9, 2015 starting at 7:30. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 2/0 vote. The last request was from 98.9 The Bear for a "Bear on the Square" lunch event to use the Courthouse Square on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 from 11:00 to 1:00 pm. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 2/0 vote. Commissioner Rethlake tabled the comp time discussion until the next meeting in April when Commissioner Amber is present. In regard to the fencing that is needed for the document storage in the basement, Commissioner Schrumpf made a favorable pass to Council to approve option 2, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 2/0 vote. Commissioner Rethlake also stated that he is going to request the selling of the parking lot to Council. He is also going to request to Council that they approve the YMCA claim out of CEDIT funds for a second time.

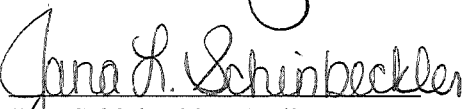
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to adjourn at 3:00 pm, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 2/0 vote.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Tom Rethlake, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman


George Schrumpf

Attest: 
Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor