

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 20, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, April 20, 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, Vice Chairman Don Amber, and George Schrupf. Others in attendance were County Attorney Dan Sigler, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Stanley Crum, Scott Wagner, Mark Jesse, Steve Henschen, Mark Parker, Marty Maloney, Doug Brown, Don Bentz, Shawna Schwegman, Bill Sylvester, Eric Dryfus, Michael Barton, Vicky Schrader, Mary Hartman, Lori Shipman, Charles Heflin, Liane Minier, Julie Jensen Kelley, Denice Spencer, and Gene Heckman.

Chairman Rethlake called the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Sigler informed the Commissioners that at the next meeting Amy Motter will be bringing a contract for their Presentence Report Investigator. Sigler has reviewed the contract and does give his approval for the Commissioners to approve it.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMA DIRECTOR: The Commissioners explained to EMA Director Charlie Heflin that they had some concerns about claims. There was a claim for 200 coloring books and they were wondering what he needed coloring books for. Charlie stated that they are for public safety day at Paige's Crossing for the kids to have. They also questioned the dog that Charlie has purchased and whether or not the County is liable for the search and rescue dog. Charlie explained that the County is not liable for the dog and it is on his insurance. Commissioner Rethlake stated that he would like to have an agreement with District III if the dog is being used for the District III Region.

IN THE MATTER OF GAI CONSULTANTS: GAI Consultants would like to assist the Commissioners with creating a Regional Sewer District. There are different areas where this Regional Sewer District might provide sanitary sewer services to. This includes Stable Acres, the South and West Side of Churubusco, Coesse, Laud, Dunfee, Troy Cedar Lake, Etna, and Collamer. GAI went over the State requirements and the process to create a Regional Sewer District. They stated that they would help the Commissioners through the entire process. They also mentioned what needs to be included in the petition and what their suggested approach would be. This would all be in Phase I; Phase II would be the implementation phase which would include preparing the district plan engineering report, design plans and specifications, and a feasibility study. It would also include IDEM approval, proceed with the bid, and then it would lead to construction and operational phases. Commissioner Rethlake stated that they would review the proposal and get back to GAI in a few weeks.

IN THE MATTER OF APEX BENEFITS: Representatives from Apex Benefits presented to the Commissioners what benefits they can offer to County employees. They currently work with thirteen other County governments and they are endorsed by the Association of Indiana Counties. Apex is a specialist in health and wellness benefits only. Statistics were presented regarding costs and savings. They use a chart for analytics and predictive modeling. This includes gathering the data, running reports to help identify needs, give insight into the different choices for employees, and then they give a strategic action plan. The Commissioners will be reviewing the information and will consider Apex benefits for the Counties future needs.

IN THE MATTER OF PREFERRED IT: Don Bentz from Preferred IT presented seven projects that have been identified as needing to be done and the cost associated with the projects. Project #1 is backup and disaster recovery which costs about \$25,700. Project #2 is for implementing firewalls and protecting the County with the internet connection which costs \$10,500. Project #3 is to install an exchange server which includes archiving emails which costs \$20,000. Project #4 is for a Community Corrections and Probation server upgrade which costs \$1,700. Project #5 is to replace XP computers with new computers which cost \$33,600. This would be for all of the different departments in the County that need the change. Project #6 is for an update to Office Suite 2013 and we would not have to upgrade for another 4 to 5 years based on technology. The cost to install this on computers is \$53,730. The last Project, #7, is a Probation database upgrade to SQL which is a one-time fee of \$1,000. The costs are all associated with software and vendor fees. After review, the Commissioners stated that Projects 5 and 6 may be able to wait. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Projects 1 through 7. After discussion, Amber withdrew his motion. There were other questions asked and further discussion held. Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve Projects 1 through 7 but look at Projects 5 and 6 to see which computers really need replaced and which can be updated with new software. Commissioner Amber seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote. The contract will be looked at by the County Attorney and whether it will be a 3 or 5 year contract.

IN THE MATTER GOVDEALS: Marty Maloney from GovDeals explained that they are an online government surplus website that does online based auctions. We are also able to restrict who we are selling certain items to such as police vehicles. They only work with governmental entities and some

colleges and they sell everything from desks to vehicles. Marty distributed some literature to the Commissioners for them to review it further.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Highway Director Michael Barton presented the 2014 annual report to the Commissioners. He also discussed the different roads that need repairs with the Commissioners.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the April 6, 2015 Commissioner meeting were reviewed. After discussion Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Rethlake, and passed with a 2/0 vote with Commissioner Amber abstaining. 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 Schrupf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

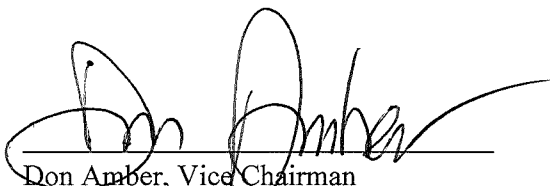
IN OTHER BUSINESS: County Coordinator Pam Smith presented three requests to the Commissioners for the use of County facilities. The first request was from the Whitley County Prayer Committee for National Day of Prayer to use the Courthouse Gazebo on Thursday, May 7, 2015 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Schrupf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request was from the Whitley County Ministry Association for a prayer service to use the Courthouse Gazebo on Thursday, May 7, 2015 from 11:00 to 1:30 pm. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Schrupf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. The last request was from the Bowen Center for a Suicide Prevention Month Announcement to use the Courthouse Square and Gazebo on Thursday, September 10, 2015 from 1:00 to 6:00 pm. Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Julie Jensen-Kelley requested to have Whitley County participate in the YMCA Corporate Challenge and for the Commissioners to approve the charges. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve participation and cost, seconded by Schrupf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Pam presented a new appraisal form to the Commissioners which was approved at the Personnel Committee meeting on April 14th and she also presented an ordinance for a new three year wage scale. The Commissioners looked over the appraisal form and Commissioner Amber made a motion to table a decision until the next meeting, seconded by Schrupf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. The amendment to the Personnel Policy for the three year wage scale, Ordinance 2015-05, had a motion to be approved by Commissioner Amber, seconded by Schrupf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Pam also had a request from the Clerk's office to start a Facebook page for voter registrations to reach more people in the community. Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve the Facebook request for a one year trial, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber brought up a problem with the type of music that is being played while employees from the County are putting people on hold on their phones. After discussion, Commissioner Amber made a motion to remove any music being played while someone is on hold, seconded by Schrupf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber requested that in regard to Apex Benefits, he would like Human Resources and the Auditor to contact the clients of Apex and use a 1-10 rating. Commissioner Amber presented an ordinance amendment to the fee schedule in order to change the charge for deeds in the Auditor's office. The Auditor would be charging a five dollars (\$5.00) fee per parcel on the deed rather than five dollars (\$5.00) per deed. The Fee Committee did review the ordinance and did give it their approval. After review, Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve Ordinance 2015-06 for a fee schedule change, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Rethlake presented a contract from Umbaugh for their services. Attorney Sigler did review the contract and gave his approval. Commissioner Amber made a motion to accept the contract, seconded by Schrupf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Rethlake also discussed joint area county dispatch. The hospital asked what Whitley County's thoughts were on this and it would include Huntington, Noble, LaGrange, and Whitley. After discussion, the Commissioners decided that they would get the chief dispatcher's opinion on this matter. Commissioner Rethlake brought up the discussion for comp time and the Commissioners will bring it up at a future meeting for further discussion. The Commissioners would also like to repost and possibly expand the requirements for the Plan Director position.

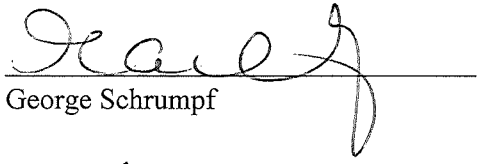
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Commissioner Amber made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Schrupf and the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

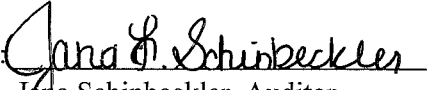
WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Tom Rethlake, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


George Schrumpf

Attest: 
Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor

