

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 15, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, June 15, 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 Schrumpf. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Mark Parker from the Post and Mail, Gary Gatman from Workforce Development, Andrew Hoskins, Dan Garman, and Duane Ginder all from Parkview, Council Chairman Tom Western, Scott Jones from E-911, Janelle Schmitt from dispatch, Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's department, Treasurer Laurell Hodges, Chad Burch from Phillips Financial, Patton Cox from Automated Group Administration, Inc., Highway Director Michael Barton, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Stanley Crum and Joan Null from WCCC.

Chairman Rethlake called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:** Attorney Sigler gave an update on the elevator contract. He asked Mark Sturtevant to send a letter for cancellation and look into a contract with a new vendor. He stated that he has also looked over the Workforce Development agreement and he approves of the contract.

**IN THE MATTER OF EMS DISPATCH:** Duane Ginder from Parkview stated that Commissioner Schrumpf requested he come in and give a presentation on the Parkview EMS dispatch. The area covered is a six County area with a central EMS dispatch which gives them the ability to know where all of the assets are in their geography. Andrew Hoskins from Parkview gave a presentation about the Parkview EMS dispatch. He stated that there are obvious benefits and risks if Whitley County decides to join the other six Counties. Parkview currently has fourteen 911 ambulances they use and the ability to have nineteen ambulances, three transport units, and two air responses. There would be loss of control for Whitley County and Janelle Schmitt from E-911 stated that they are not able to hear Parkview's radio traffic. The facility is currently stationed in Huntington but they have plans in the first quarter of 2016 to move to Fort Wayne. After discussion, the Commissioners decided this would be tabled until the next regular Commissioner meeting.

**IN THE MATTER OF HEALTH INSURANCE:** Patton Cox from Automated Group Administration gave a presentation to the Commissioners for MCC (Managed Care Concepts). This program offers case management, disease management, and a 24/7 CareLine. In regard to prescriptions, 4D Pharmacy Management has partnered with GoodRX which helps monitor the prices of prescriptions for employees to get the cheapest price. Members would also be able to transfer their prescriptions to different pharmacies through GoodRX. This would be in addition to the health insurance the County currently has. Patton stated that the first year would be free for the County and the years following that would be \$3.95 per person. The Commissioners thanked Chad Burch and Patton Cox for coming in to give the presentation.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE EDC BUDGET DISCUSSION:** EDC President Jon Myers gave the Commissioners an operating budget for 2016. This operating budget for the EDC was also presented to the EDC Board of Directors at its meeting on June 8, 2015. Jon is asking for the CEDIT supported funds of \$177,742 and the contribution of rent for their office space of \$31,200. There is no increase requested from the County for 2016. He stated there may have to be some increases for health insurance but they are not, at this time, increasing wages unless they are approved by the Board. After review, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the Whitley County EDC budget for 2016, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT:** Gary Gatman from Workforce Development presented the Workforce Development agreement to the Commissioners. County Attorney Sigler has reviewed and approved the five year agreement. After discussion, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Highway Director Michael Barton gave an update on the status of County roads. He stated that they are working on several roads around the County and he will keep the Commissioners informed. Commissioner Schrumpf questioned Michael with a problem on Linker Road and he will look into it.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR:** County Coordinator Pam Smith presented a request from Sheriff Gatton. He is requesting that one of his employees that is on medical leave be allowed to do some work from home because they are the only individual that does this job. The County attorney stated that this needs to be voluntary and there needs to be a set amount of hours the employee

can work each week. The employee can be on intermittent FMLA and can also work ten hours per week. The Commissioners stated that they believe this can be handled between the County attorney, County Sheriff, and the County Coordinator. Next, Pam presented the new employee performance appraisal sheet with the employee comment section added. The personnel committee has approved the new performance appraisal and to perform reviews starting January 1, 2016. Commissioner Amber made a motion to accept the recommendation of the personnel committee to utilize the new performance appraisal form with the comments section and it will begin in January of 2016 evaluating 2015. Commissioner Schrumpf seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote. Pam discussed the cell phone usage on the County's current plan. The County may choose to go to stipends completely rather than have a cell phone plan. If the County decides to do so, it would cost \$810.00 plus for employees which already have stipends now is \$330.00. Total amount would cost \$1,140.00. With the current plan, this would still save the County \$92.00. After discussion, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to switch to stipends, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Pam also presented the annual wage proposal for 2016 in regard to wage increases for employees. She stated the Whitley County Government employees' current average wage is \$35,290 and overall Whitley County's average wage is \$35,639 which is \$349 more. Benefits in Whitley County Government are no longer a factor in retaining and attracting employees. Pam recommends to the Commissioners and the Council to do a 3% wage increase for all the Whitley County employees to retain employees and gain skilled employees. The second recommendation from Pam is to give employees a one-time incentive of \$875 for full-time employees which is based on 2.48%. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to table wage increases until their next meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The minutes from the June 1, 2015 Commissioner meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote. The executive session minutes from June 1, 2015 were also reviewed. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the executive session minutes, seconded by Schrumpf, 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 OTHER BUSINESS:** Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented a utility permit to the Commissioners from Frontier Communications. The request is for East County Road 600 North to provide telephone service and to bore under East County Road 600 North and continue onto private property. After review, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the utility request, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that the County has almost hit the two billion mark on pop tabs and an employee was wondering if they could request a match from Omnisource. They asked to send a letter to Omnisource that was approved by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber said the pop tabs are to raise money for Riley Children's Hospital and he gave his consensus, along with Commissioner Rethlake and Schrumpf, to approve sending the letter. Commissioner Schrumpf also had a request from the Post and Mail for the Commissioners to be on the front page of their 2015 Fact Book along with the Whitley County EDC. The cost for splitting the front page would be \$300 from Whitley County Government. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve this request to be paid out of their budget, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Schrumpf reported that there is a problem with the sign at Shiner Lake Marina. INDOT has torn the sign down stating that it was not permitted so the Marina has created another sign and contacted INDOT to request a permit and go through the proper procedure to put up the new sign. INDOT stated that they will not give a permit because it is not grandfathered and it is not zoned commercial land but it had been there since 1962. The Commissioners came to the consensus that the sign should be put up. In regard to filling the Planning Director position, Commissioner Schrumpf recommends Aliza Tourkow for the position. They have submitted an offer to her and she has counteroffered with more vacation time and an increase in the salary. After discussion, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the hiring of Aliza Tourkow as the new Planning Director with the set salary, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber reported that he received a letter from Debra Darr about the cut in CEDIT funding for the Council on Aging. She wrote that the \$10,000 cut would only allow her to buy one van instead of two. Commissioner Amber would like to make a motion to accept the resignation of Charlie Heflin as the EMA director, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 2/1 vote with Rethlake voting against. Amber also reported that the EMA finances are in good standing and there are three grants that are currently being used. Commissioner Amber has spoken with Debbie Beers in regard to file management being closed due to the employee having a medical issue. They will be temporarily closing file management but there will be a sign for whom to get ahold of in case someone needs to look through the files. Commissioner Rethlake reported about the parking lot on East Van Buren that the County is trying to sell. He asked the City if they would like to take ownership of the parking lot and they are not interested unless it is given to them. Rethlake stated that the Commissioners need to have names of who is nominated by Whitley County for the RDA to be on the board. A letter needs to be sent for the names that have been chosen and it is to be signed by all three Commissioners. Commissioner Rethlake reported an employee went full-time to part-time and is now again at full-time has requested a weeks' vacation. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Scott Wagner from the Health department stated that the meeting for the Coesse Sewer project will be today at the United Methodist

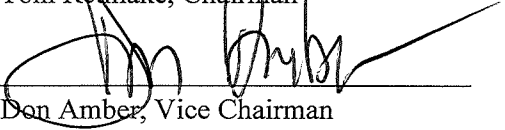
Church at 6:30pm. At the last Commissioner meeting, the Commissioners voted to accept the bid for the Berket property in the amount of \$2,600 in Coesse. The court ruled that as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, if the owners do not have the work done, the contractor will start.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

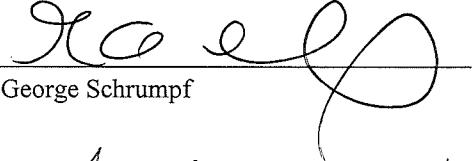
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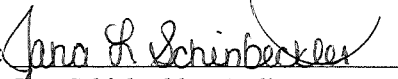
Tom Rethlake, Chairman



Don Amber, Vice Chairman



George Schrupf

Attest:   
Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor

