

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 22, 2015

June

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a special session on Monday, June 22, 2015 at 9:00 am in the Commissioner's 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. Also in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Scott Wagner from the Health department, Mark Jesse from GAI Consultants, Kim Frey from Atlas Excavating, Jeremy from Crosby Excavating, John Bercot from Bercot, Inc., Mark Parker from the Post and Mail, and County Engineer Brandon Forrester.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE BID OPENING FOR THE COESSE SEWER PROJECT: There were a total of three bids for the Coesse Sewer project. Commissioner Amber opened the first bid which was from Atlas Excavating for \$268,920.00. Commissioner Schrupf opened the second bid which was from Crosby Excavating for \$209,520.00. Commissioner Amber opened the last big which was from Bercot, Inc. for \$247,516.00. Mark Jesse from GAI Consultants stated that their estimated cost for the project was around \$180,000.00. Mark Jesse and Scott Wagner took the bids to look them over for the Commissioners and give a recommendation. After the Public Hearing, Mark and Scott made the recommendation to go with the low bidder, Crosby Excavating. Commissioner Schrupf stated that this project will be paid for with Redevelopment funds. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the Crosby Excavating bid, seconded by Schrupf, and carried with a 3/0 vote.

Regular Commissioner meeting was adjourned for a Public Hearing meeting on the Cumulative Bridge rate.

PUBLIC HEARING: This hearing was to re-establish the Cumulative Bridge Fund from \$.03339 to \$.05339 on each 100 of assessed value, said rate will be levied beginning with taxes for 2015 payable in 2016. Proof of advertisements in two papers on June 10 and June 17, 2015 in the Post & Mail and the Churubusco News to meet requirements of notification to taxpayers were completed. With there being no comment from the public, Commissioner Amber made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Schrupf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

Regular Commissioner meeting was reconvened at this time.

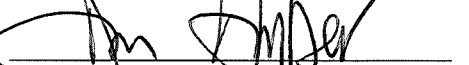
County Engineer Brandon Forrester explained why this raise in the Cumulative Bridge Fund is needed and where the County has been losing revenue over the past few years. The revenue sources for Cumulative Bridge are property tax, vehicle excise tax, financial institution tax, commercial vehicle excise tax, and interest on the balance of the fund. To give a perspective, in 2004 the property tax collection was \$609,000 and in 2009 \$439,000 which makes this a \$170,000 drop in revenue. Vehicle excise tax has dropped as well, along with the others, from \$79,000 in 2005 to \$19,000 in 2012. Brandon informed the Commissioners that the Cumulative Bridge fund rate has not been raised since the 1980's. After further discussion, Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to adopt the rate increase from \$.03339 to \$.05339, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Ordinance 2015-09 to establish the new rate had a motion to be approved by Commissioner Schrupf, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote.


IN OTHER BUSINESS: In regard to a new Planning Director for the County, Commissioner Amber stated that they have offered the position to a candidate in Fort Wayne. She has now counteroffered with either an increase in the pay or an increase in the vacation time and the base wage for the Planning Director is \$55,000. After discussion, Commissioner Amber made a motion to offer the base wage and two weeks' vacation to her, seconded by Schrupf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schrupf stated that he has a meeting on US 30 in Indy to talk about the current project. Commissioner Rethlake stated that County Clerk Debbie Beers brought to his attention that she is concerned about comp time for her elections employee. The Commissioners said they would like to request Debbie to come to their next regular meeting and to table the discussion until then. In regard to the cell phone stipends, Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant requested that he be able to keep his cell phone because there are different tools on his phone that he needs, such as when the alarm goes off at any Government Building, it sends him an alarm. Auditor Jana Schinbeckler also had a request by an Indiana State Trooper to have his property records restricted. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Schrupf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

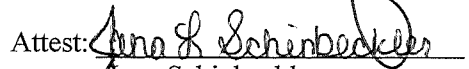
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Commissioner Rethlake adjourned the meeting at 9:55 am.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Tom Rethlake, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


George Schrumpf

Attest: 
Jana Schinbeckler
Auditor