

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

July 7, 2015

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, July 7, 2015 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Tom Western, Vice Chairman Kim Wheeler, Jim Bayman, Bill Overdeer, Glen LaRue, John Barrett, and Paula Reimers. Also in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Commissioner Tom Rethlake, Jon Myers from the EDC, Mark Parker from the Post and Mail, George Schruppf, Phyllis Wheeler, and Bill Etzler from ERI.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2016 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUDGET: EDC President Jon Myers gave the Council a proposed operating budget for 2016. Jon is requesting for the CEDIT supported funds of \$177,742 from the County and the contribution of rent from EDC for their office space of \$31,200. There is no increase requested from the County for 2016. He stated that there may be some increases for health insurance but they are not, at this time, increasing wages unless they are approved by the Board. With no questions, Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the CEDIT funds request, seconded by Reimers, and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF JAIL MAINTENANCE: Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant stated that there is a line item in the jail's budget for maintenance that should be moved to his budget if he is responsible for the building maintenance for the jail. The Council stated that they would discuss the issue further when they are able to look closer at each department's budget. Mark also went over the major expenses that he foresees in 2016. There is maintenance that each County building needs but the most expensive would be the 28 year old HVAC chiller for the jail which would cost \$150,000.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the June 2, 2015 meeting were reviewed. There was one correction needed in the minutes. Under "In the Matter of the Ag and Natural Resources", it states, "gave a report to the Commissioners". It should read, "gave a report to the Council". Council member LaRue made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Bayman, and passed with a 6/0 vote with Wheeler abstaining.

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS:

1110.37006.000.0000 Equip Maint/Lease 1110.38004.000.0000 Institutional Care \$20,000

A motion was made by Reimers to approve the transfer, seconded by Barrett, and carried with a 7/0 vote.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Commissioner Rethlake gave a report from the Commissioners meeting:

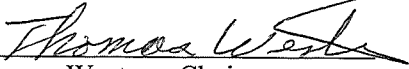
- Commissioner Rethlake informed the Council that the Commissioners are reconsidering their decision to eliminate compensatory time. There have been several problems brought to their attention and they will discuss it further at their next Commissioner meeting.
- Traveler's insurance is requesting information from the County. The Commissioners and Sheriff Gatton are checking into the cost for the County. Travelers stated there are two areas we need to improve on which would be extra counseling and on searches.
- There is a legal issue that the Commissioners are currently working on. There is a business in Whitley County that is refusing to pay their taxes and there are numerous other expenses that they have witnessed with this business. Today, they owe approximately \$28,000 in property taxes and approximately \$62,000 in penalties. The property is contaminated and Commissioner Schruppf suggested that the County should possibly perform testing to check if the soil is still contaminated. The Commissioners have decided they are going to move forward with the testing before they take any further action on the issue.
- Commissioner Rethlake gave an update on Preferred IT. He would like to have them start working on project #6 which costs \$53,730.
- Rethlake presented a new employee evaluation sheet and the County will begin using this form starting on January 1, 2016.
- In regard to the CEDIT Plan, the Commissioners made some changes on the funding of the projects. Instead of reducing the Humane Shelter and the Council on Aging's contribution, the Commissioners are now keeping them the same for \$25,000 but now on site off site improvements are going from \$250,000 to \$200,000.

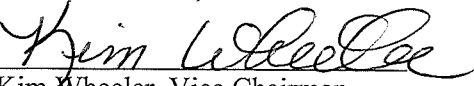
IN OTHER BUSINESS: Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented the 2016 budget books to the Council. Auditor Schinbeckler also stated that there is a line item in the Dispatch budget and the Planning

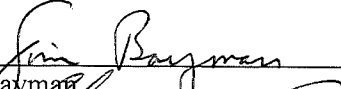
department budget that are negative and need to be fixed. The Council recommended that a transfer within the department needs to be done and brought to them for approval.

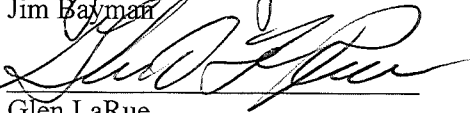
There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.

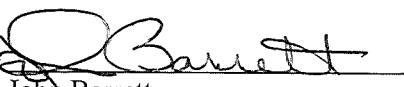
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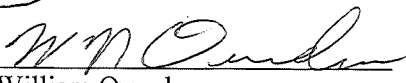

Thomas Western, Chairman

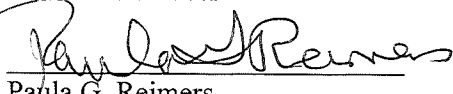

Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman


Jim Bayman



Glen LaRue


John Barrett


William Overdeer


Paula G. Reimers

Attest:


Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor