

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 2, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, November 2, 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 Don Amber, George Schruppf, and Tom Rethlake. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Highway Director Michael Barton, Nick Rupert from the Post and Mail, Dave Krauter, Paul Johnson, Stanley Crum, Joan Null, EMA Director Amy Biggs, and Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library.

Chairman Amber opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:** County Attorney Dan Sigler stated that the Commissioners need to vote on a new Chairman. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion for Commissioner Amber to be Chairman and Commissioner Schruppf be Vice Chairman, seconded by Schruppf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Attorney Sigler gave the Commissioners an update on the Goble/Drapinski lawsuit. The court ruled for the Auditor to give Goble/Drapinski refunds for the Henk, Ternet, and Testworth Laboratories properties. The Auditor has ten days to send the information to the Judge to have it reviewed. Attorney Sigler also informed the Commissioners of a lawsuit against the County for a person being over incarcerated for 66 days. Attorney Sigler stated that he is in the process of verifying that the person was over detained. In regard to the Diamond Avenue property, the property contamination test has come back positive. Scott Wagner from the Health Department stated that it could cost a few hundred thousand dollars to clean up the property. The Commissioners would like to enter a contractual agreement with the owner of the property. Commissioner Schruppf made a motion to table this matter until the next meeting, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE WELL EXEMPTION:** Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented a water well permit application to the Commissioners for David Johnson. The requirement for water wells is that they must be 10' from all structures but he is requesting 5'. The reason is due to an easement running through the property line that the well is not able to be placed on. After review, Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the water well permit application, seconded by Schruppf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Highway Director Michael Barton gave an update to the Commissioners for the Highway Department. He plans on the department sealing an abundance of roads next year. Michael also stated that they are doing well with their budget for 2015. In regard to salt prices, Michael gave the Commissioners an update on what they will be for this winter.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR:** County Coordinator Pam Smith presented a request/permission to use County facilities. The request was from the Columbia City Fire Department for the Children's Candy Give Away on Thursday, December 24, 2015 from 5PM to 9PM. They would use the inside of the Courthouse. Commissioner Schruppf made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The minutes from the October 13, 2015 special meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Schruppf made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. The minutes from the October 19, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schruppf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claims were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schruppf, and carried with a 3/0 vote.

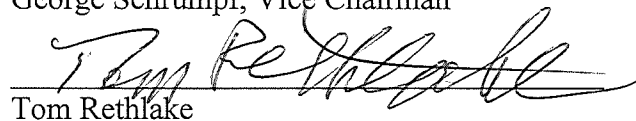
**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Emergency Management Director Amy Biggs stated that every year there is an LEPC overview for State documentation. There are certain criteria that need to be met in order to continue to receive funding. One of the criteria that needs completed is an exercise that involves a third party agency. Amy recommended the third party agency to be Resilient Strategies LLC. They charge \$4,175.00 for the training and the grant money can be used to fund this. Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to approve Resilient Strategies LLC for the exercise, seconded by Rethlake, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber brought up longevity pay, just for the Commissioners, for 2017. The contractual agreement for the extension office was presented to the Commissioners. The Commissioners stated they would like more information on the agreement. Commissioner Schrupf made a motion to table the agreement, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Mark Sturtevant presented a request to the Commissioners. The heat pumps at the Courthouse need replaced and he would like to replace two a year. The heat pumps are \$14,600 each and he would like to start replacing them next year. Commissioner Schrupf made a favorable pass to Council for this request, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber reported that the LOIT Public Safety did pass at the Council meeting. He also stated that the County dinner is Friday, December 11, 2015. Scott Wagner from the Health Department reported to the Commissioners that the Diamond Avenue property's mortgage was release last Friday (October 30, 2015). The Commissioners also discussed the opening on the EMA board for Larwill. Larwill has not appointed anyone at this time but they may request Ron Glassley. There was also discussion about the winter preparedness plan between the EMA Director, Highway Director, and the schools. They have not met yet this year for a plan for the winter but they are going to soon. EMA Director Amy Biggs announced that the Veterans Marathon is November 14, 2015.

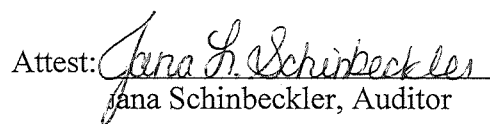
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Amber adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Don Amber, Chairman

George Schrupf, Vice Chairman

  
Tom Rethlake

Attest:   
Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor