

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 4, 2016

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, January 4, 2016 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, Vice Chairman George Schrumpf, and Tom Rethlake. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Attorney Dan Sigler, County Coordinator Pamela Smith, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Nick Rupert from the Post and Mail, Joan Null, Stanley Crum from Wood Land Lakes, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, and Highway Director Michael Barton.

Chairman Amber opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE 2016 ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** In the election of officers for the Whitley County Commissioners for 2016, Commissioner Amber nominated George Schrumpf for Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Rethlake nominated Commissioner Amber for Vice Chairman, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf, motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:** Attorney Sigler presented his contract with Whitley County to the Commissioners for January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Attorney Sigler's contract for 2016, seconded by Commissioner Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Attorney Sigler informed the Commissioners that he has reviewed the IGS Energy contract and he approves it. With the approval, Commissioner Amber made a motion to accept the IGS Energy contract, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Sigler reported that Attorney Mallers who represented Parkview from Fort Wayne would like to attend the next Commissioner's meeting to discuss the change of bylaws for Whitley Memorial.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Highway Director Michael Barton reported to the Commissioners that he would like to purchase two new trucks for the highway department. He would like the trucks to be built the exact same way and he will provide bids for the Commissioners when he receives them.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR:** County Coordinator Pamela Smith informed the Commissioners of the mandatory blood borne pathogen training for all employees that will be conducted by the Whitley County EMA Director Amy Biggs. The training will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 and it helps to educate employees on how to protect themselves from blood exposure in the work place. The safety committee met in December and the committee discussed changing the members to get different ideas and perspectives.

**IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The minutes from the December 7, 2015 special meeting for bids were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Amber, Commissioner Schrumpf seconded the motion and passed with a 2/0 vote with Rethlake abstaining. The minutes from the December 21, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve, seconded by Rethlake, and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions were reviewed by the Commissioners. A motion to approve the claims was made by Commissioner Amber, seconded by Commissioner Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** County Auditor gave a year-end report to the Commissioners and the year end balances in the County funds. Commissioner Rethlake requested that the 2016 CEDIT plan be revised. He asked that there be a few programs cut out of the plan. Rethlake also requested that Commissioner Amber be put on the safety committee in Commissioner Rethlake's place. The Commissioners came to a consensus that Commissioner Amber will take

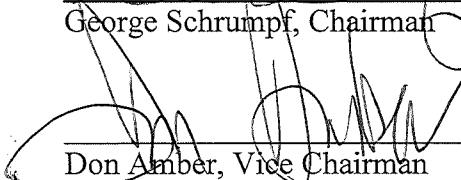
Commissioner Rethlake's place on the safety committee. EMA Director Amy Biggs answered questions that Commissioner Rethlake had for her. The questions were in regard to the recent accident and he asked what the mutual agreement is between Counties. Amy stated that there is a mutual aid agreement among all 92 counties. In regard to the recent accident, there was a log kept of all the products used and hours put into the cleanup. Amy is working with the agency to be reimbursed for those expenses. She reported that ERS (Environmental Remediation Services) will be finishing the cleanup for the accident. In regard to appointments for the Churubusco Plan Commission, Commissioner Amber recommended Ashley Johnson to be appointed.

Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Ashley Johnson to be appointed to the Churubusco Plan Commission, seconded by Rethlake, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber reported that the EMS bid specs will be on January 19, 2016. The Commissioners also discussed having a backup generator for the Courthouse and Community Corrections. A generator would cost the County around \$25,000 to \$30,000. Commissioner Schrumpf reported that the parking lot agreement with Billy Reffitt has been approved it just needs signed. The County is still looking into updating the video cameras around the Government Center. In regard to the fuel facility, Commissioner Schrumpf is requesting that the County begin charging an add on. Michael Barton stated that there are contracts with the schools for the fuel facility and the Commissioners requested that he find out where the charges are at. Stanley Crum from Wood Land Lakes also gave an update to the Commissioners.

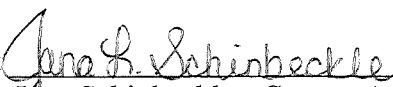
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Amber adjourned the meeting at 2:20 pm.

#### WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
George Schrumpf, Chairman

  
Don Amber, Vice Chairman

  
Tom Rethlake

Attest:   
Jana Schinbeckler, County Auditor