

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 18, 2016

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 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 George Schrumpf, Vice Chairman Don Amber and Commissioner Tom Rethlake. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pamela Smith, Janelle Schmitt, Brandon Rittenhouse, Erin Auer, Jeff Sparkman, and Branden Anderson from dispatch, Joan Null, Stanley Crum, Council member Bill Overdeer, Randy Cokl, Jason Spencer, and Sheriff Marc Gatton from the Sheriff's department, Scott Jones from 911, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Dan Garman, Duane Ginder, Scott Gabrielle from Parkview, Eric Clabaugh, Jessica Miller, Scott Hilliard from Ag Plus, Nick Rupert from the Post and Mail, and Highway Director Michael Barton.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:** Attorney Sigler reported to the Commissioners in regard to the Samaritan property. Dan has prepared a deed conveying the property back to the State. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that they did accept the property and it reverted back to the DNR. Attorney Sigler informed the Commissioners that the highway contract for Brandon Forrester is complete and he has given Brandon and the Commissioners a copy for discussion purposes.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ANNEX ROOF/HVAC PROJECT:** Maintenance Manager Mark Sturtevant presented a request to the Commissioners that they tabled at their last meeting on April 4, 2016. The request is in regard to the annex roof and the HVAC project. Mark stated there were three bids submitted by Summit City Roofing, C.L. Schust and Fort Wayne Roofing. Summit City Roofing can do it without a down payment and they are using Morsches Builders Mart in Columbia City for the materials. Attorney Sigler stated that they need to submit an invoice for work and the County will pay them as the work is completed. It will be a month long project. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve Summit City Roofing for \$73,681.00, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF CENTRAL DISPATCH AND CAD SYSTEM:** Janelle Schmitt from dispatch expressed her concerns over Parkview taking over Whitley County's medical dispatch. One of the concerns that Janelle has heard from others is the liability the County has for taking the emergency calls. She stated there may be a slight increase in liability for medical calls but proclaimed there is also a certain amount of liability in every office of Whitley County. The program used by dispatch is called Priority Dispatch which is used by Parkview as well. Even if the Commissioners send the dispatch for EMS to Huntington, Whitley County dispatch employees still have to keep their certification and new it every two years. Several months ago Commissioner Schrumpf, E911 Director Scott Jones, and Janelle took a tour of Parkview's dispatch. Janelle asked why the Parkview Director would want to dispatch for Whitley County and he stated it would save the County money. Janelle stated she disagrees and that it would save money for Parkview because they can divide the cost of the center by four Counties instead of three; not saving money for the County. Janelle has also done research on the combined dispatch and it is a very large project that would take years to accomplish which is typically a minimum of three years. It is costly and neither dispatch center has enough to hold all of the employees. In regard to the CAD system, it is quickly going out of date and it is a necessity for dispatch. With the combined dispatch being years from now, Janelle is requesting the Commissioners permission to move forward with obtaining a new CAD system. She would like to give a presentation to the County Council and get an RFP going. The reason the County is not able to take on City employees is because there are four work stations, there are three employees working at all times and the City has two employees working the majority of the time. The current CAD system has 45 licenses and the reason we are not able to combine with the City is because they have different modules than what the County needs.

Commissioner Schruppf stated they are just looking into options at this time. Commissioner Amber made a motion for a favorable pass to Council for Janelle to move forward with the CAD project, seconded by Rethlake with discussion. Commissioner Rethlake asked for a rough figure of what the CAD system would cost. Janelle stated that the approximate cost of the CAD system would be \$350,000.00 with a lease program. After discussion, the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PARKVIEW EMS CONTRACT:** Duane Ginder, Dan Garman, and Scott Gabrielle from Parkview gave a presentation to the Commissioners. Senior Vice President of Emergency Medicine Service Line Dan Garman spoke about the strategy of the service line and how it fits within the Whitley County Emergency Medicine component. They have been working for the last several years to develop an integrated emergency response program within Parkview Health. Parkview has a central EMS dispatch center and it is being transitioned to becoming a more integrated logistics center within which they will operate all of their EMS assets. All of their vehicles have vehicle locator devices that is tied to their CAD system. Prior to June of 2014, Parkview had two Paramedic staffed ambulances in the County. Both of those ambulances were stationed in Columbia City. They realized that if there was a call in South Whitley or Churubusco, the call was taking too long. They also did a six month staffing review at the time and 12% of the time there was no one on the ambulances and 42% of the time, there was only one person on each of the ambulances. They recognized they needed to change to provide better service to the people of Whitley County. They then spread the ambulances out and now have a paramedic on each truck; one in Columbia City, one in Churubusco, and one in South Whitley. Each of them are partnered with an advanced EMT. Their response time is set as a goal of getting to a scene in under thirteen minutes. In regard to historical run information, an average day has seven emergency runs and three transfers. For patient experience, Parkview uses a company called Professional Research Consultants (PRC) out of Omaha, Nebraska. They randomly select and do phone surveys with fifty patients per quarter and they are asked a series of ten questions. The customers rated Parkview Whitley Hospital in the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for patient care. In regard to transfers, Duane stated that there is a transfer truck in Fort Wayne that can be utilized when all of the County units are busy. Commissioner Amber asked why we did not know this before and why we haven't been using it. Employees from dispatch stated that they were never offered the use of the transfer truck. Commissioner Rethlake stated that one of his concerns is that the Commissioners have not heard any complaints about Parkview until now. Rethlake also stated that there is a lot of communication issues between Parkview and the Whitley County Dispatch. Scott Gabriel stated that in regard to transfers, with the numbers that they show, there is no reason to staff a 4<sup>th</sup> truck 24 hours a day which adds a significant cost to do so. In respect to the contract, Commissioner Amber would still like to send out a set of specifications to see what other vendors would be interested in providing the ambulance services to Whitley County. This way the County has options and the company has to perform the way the Commissioners would like to see it done because the County is paying the bill. Attorney Sigler stated at this point, the County does not necessarily have the time to set out specifications and go through a bidding process. The extension of the contract would be a five year period. EMA Director Amy Biggs asked a few questions as a Whitley County resident. She asked if there is any consideration in establishing an internal board rather than just the oversight committee. With an internal board, there may be more insight as to what goes on daily and would keep communication lines open. A member of the public stated that his family had an emergency and the Parkview staff on the ambulance did a phenomenal job. The Commissioners thanked the member of the public for their feedback. The Commissioners began discussing the contract again and stated that Parkview has offered to purchase the County ambulances but Commissioner Amber is concerned that if Parkview ever decides to leave the County, we would be left with no ambulances. Scott Gabriel informed the Commissioners that if Parkview decided to leave the County, they would indeed gift back the ambulances to the County. Attorney Sigler stated that he will become more involved when there is more than just negotiation and talking points. When the Commissioners are ready, he will begin working on the contract and the language for the contract. Some County employees also had a concern with delays and dropped calls that they may experience when there is an emergency call. Parkview has call takers and

dispatchers, and the calls coming in are taken by the call takers and someone else is dispatching the ambulance. Dan stated that at this point to his knowledge, there has never been a dropped call. With no further comment, the Commissioners thanked the Parkview representatives for attending the meeting and no decisions were made at this time.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Highway Director Michael Barton informed the Commissioners that he has looked into the chloride questions that they had. Michael called Great Lakes Chloride and they would like to get on the list first because the roads that have been milled are very dusty at this time. Great Lakes Chloride stated they would take care of us within two weeks. Michael stated that he will get the information to Brandon and the Highway Department currently does have a sealing plan for roads. Sealing the roads will start around the first of June. The Commissioners thanked Michael for his seven years of service for Whitley County. Michael thanked the Commissioners as well.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR:** County Coordinator Pamela Smith presented two requests to use County facilities to the Commissioners. The first request was for Whitley County Ministerial Association for the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The request is to use the Courthouse Gazebo during this time period. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request was from First Church of God Student Ministries for a youth gathering on May 15, 2016 from 5 PM to 8 PM. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the County's insurance, open enrollment will be from May 23 through June 24, 2016. STAR Insurance will be at the Government Center providing information to the employees. Due to ACA requirements, everyone must enroll or re-enroll for the health insurance and employees are required to attend informational sessions.

**IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The minutes from the April 4, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 2/0 vote with Amber abstaining. The claims were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

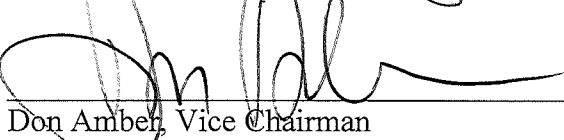
**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** In regard to the contract for County Engineer Brandon Forrester to consolidate the position of the Highway Director and the County Engineer, the two biggest concerns for the Commissioners is the pay and the time each position needs. Brandon would retain his current salary and receive half of the pay that the current Highway Director makes. The current salary for the Engineer is \$69,632 and with half of the Highway Director's hire in wage it would be \$95,017 and the base would be \$99,264. Commissioner Amber commented that the County will still be saving approximately \$30,000 by consolidating the positions. At this point in time, there is no change in either job description. Commissioner Amber made a motion to hire Brandon at his current salary as the County Engineer plus half of the Highway Director's salary at the hire in wage, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 2/1 vote with Rethlake voting against. Commissioner Amber made a motion that Brandon's contract be for a one year time period from the day the contract is signed, seconded by Commissioner Rethlake and motion passed with all in favor. Commissioner Rethlake also reported that there are 73 people at the Work Release facility. Auditor Schinbeckler presented the Commissioner's appointment to the Local Alcoholic Beverage Board for Gary Gordon. Commissioner Amber made a motion to appoint Gary Gordon to the Local Alcoholic Beverage Board, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the Transmission Utility Network IN, LLC utility permit request, Brandon did not give a favorable recommendation to the Commissioners to approve it. The Commissioners reviewed the request which is for a new utility infrastructure facility. Commissioner Amber made a motion to deny the utility permit request, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote. Auditor Schinbeckler also presented the SRI contract agreement to the Commissioners. They have increased their fee from \$70 to \$75 for the upcoming tax sale season. Attorney Sigler has reviewed the document and has given his approval. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the SRI Contract for 2016,

seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. There was a question from the public in regard to safety due to neighbors pointing their personal security cameras at others homes. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that he may want to check to see if there is a privacy ordinance in regard to this matter with the Sheriff's department.

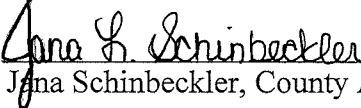
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 3:10 PM.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
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George Schrumpf, Chairman

  
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Don Amber, Vice Chairman

  
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Tom Rethlake

Attest:   
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Jana Schinbeckler, County Auditor