

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 16, 2016

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 16, 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 Schrupf, Vice Chairman Don Amber and Commissioner Tom Rethlake. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pamela Smith, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Cindy Baker from United Way, Lori Shipman from United Way, Todd Geiger and Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office, Leslee Derbeck and Heidi Darley from STAR Insurance, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Bill Etzler from ERI and Highway Director/Engineer Brandon Forrester.

Chairman Schrupf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Sigler spoke about the litigation report for Childers search warrant case last week. The Health department was successful in obtaining the search warrant. Scott Wagner from the Health department will be able to follow through and inspect the residence. In regard to the Whitehead case, Sigler is in discussion with the plaintiff's attorney trying to resolve the case. He will share any progress with the Commissioners next week in regard to this case. The County Road 600 East project right-of-ways have been reviewed by Attorney Sigler. He shows all of them to be in order and gives them his approval, they just need the Commissioner's approval. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to accept the right-of-way easements for the County Road 600 E Project, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. Pertaining to the matter of the Parkview EMS contract, the proposed agreement is in the hands of Parkview's attorney for review.

IN THE MATTER OF THE FEE INCREASE FOR WATER WELL PERMITS: Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented a request and an Ordinance to the Commissioners to amend the fee for water wells. The fee is increasing from \$10.00 to \$20.00 and this fee is in addition to any other fee provided by law. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Ordinance 2016-03, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF UNITED WAY: Cindy Baker from United Way gave a presentation to the Commissioners asking to partner with the County to invest in human resource services that we have here in the community. Nonprofits tend to fill the gap between where government assistance ends and private business begins. She introduced United Way through a video presentation for the Commissioners. The video gave different stories of individuals that United Way has helped in the past. TROY Center is a great place for students with needs that the regular school sometimes can't provide for them. Troy Center is funded through United Way and offers counseling to the students and the families as well. Quite a few of the people that work at the Troy Center are counselors and are trained social workers. The Lighthouse homeless shelter is also funded through United Way. In 2015, United Way helped over 8,200 people which is almost 25% of Whitley County's population. Cindy is proposing to partner with the Commissioners to help economic development at the most basic level which is to help people in need. These organizations build relationships with these people and that provides stability that they may not have otherwise. CASA is another organization that United Way assists in funding. Cindy is requesting that the Commissioners give United Way \$25,000 and then they will determine through their panel process how the \$25,000 is divided up into the grant applicants that they have. United Way has three focus areas: education, financial stability and community chest. Commissioner Schrupf stated that this request will be considered for the 2017 Cedit plan. Commissioner Rethlake asked that if the Commissioners approve the \$25,000 for United Way that they do not cut the \$25,000 for Troy Center.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERING: Highway Director/Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Commissioners that the time is coming up to work summer hours. Brandon is asking if the Commissioners have a recommendation on what they would like the hours to be.

He would like to do either five, eight hours days or four, ten hour days. The vast majority of the employees at the Highway department would like to work four, ten hour days each week. Commissioner Amber stated that he is in favor of the four, ten days a week but he is not in favor of it for the office. He believes it should be staffed five days a week during the summer. Brandon is unsure of when he wants to begin the summer hours but it is usually from Memorial Day to Labor Day. He reported that patching is 90% complete and the department has put down 450 to 500 tons of patch material and hopes to be completely done by the end of the week. They are going to start getting the roads that were milled last year prepared to be double chip sealed. There was a culvert replaced on 150 S, east of State Road 5 due to water being across the road that is gravel. Brandon hopes to begin mowing soon and get the intersections swept for safety. In regard to the bucket truck, there are ten people trained on the truck and now the truck just needs certified. It is one of the most dangerous jobs due to the various elements one must work with such as daily traffic, powerlines, etc. Brandon also reported that farmers have been planting in the right-of-way and it will be mowed down if it obstructs the view on roadways. There are two State Road projects that are coming up and the unofficial detours have not been finalized by the State. The Commissioners typically sign a letter of understanding with INDOT for the unofficial detours and as soon as Brandon receives them, he will bring them to the Commissioners to approve and sign. In regard to asphalt, Pierceton Trucking has lowered their rates which will help the department go further with chip and sealing roads.

IN THE MATTER OF HEALTH INSURANCE: STAR Insurance has worked closely with Commissioner Schrupf and Pam Smith at looking into the different options that the County has in regard to health insurance. Schrupf reported that the County's trust account has gone from \$-76,000.00 up to \$401,000.00. In regard to claim types as of August 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016 the employee's claims were \$339,000, spouses were \$405,000 and children was \$113,000. The current health plan is Signature Care EPO and STAR is recommending that all of the deductibles be raised by \$250.00 for each type of coverage. Emergency room visit co pays will go from \$150.00 to \$250.00 per each visit. In regard to prescription drugs, the County has saved over \$76,000 due to a grant program that STAR Insurance has the County enrolled in. It has also been requested from STAR that the part-time people, such as Commissioners and Council, that they be dropped from the program for health insurance. If the Commissioners and Council are dropped, it is a savings of over \$200,000. Heidi from STAR stated that if the Commissioners and Council are dropped from the program, Medicare would consider it a qualifying event and they would be able to apply for Medicare. This is only a proposal for now and the coverage ends December 31, 2016. Overall, if the County keeps the plan the same as it is, it would cost \$1,772,206.29. If the recommended changes are made, it would cost \$1,555,838.37 for a total savings of \$216,367.92. The Commissioners stated that this needs to be taken to Council for their input and Commissioner Amber would like to see if the deductibles could remain the same.

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 from Columbia City Elks Lodge for Flag Day Service on Saturday, June 11, 2016 from noon to 1PM. They would like to use the north side of the Courthouse lawn. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with all in favor. The second request was from the Columbia City Main Street Association for their Summer Concert Series on June 18th, July 16th, August 20th and September 17, 2016 from 4PM to 11PM. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote. Pam informed the Commissioners that she has a request to amend the salary ordinance to propose to the County Council at their next meeting. This is in regard to an adjustment in pay for an interim Foreman at the Highway Department effective April 24, 2016. In regard to a policy change for active duty enlistment individuals, there is a current policy in place under 4.1 of the handbook. The change that needs to be made is sick time needs to be added and that this policy supersedes any other benefit policy in the handbook. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the policy change, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote.


IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the May 2, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Rethlake made one correction under In the Matter of the County Attorney. The correction is “is and it” are interchanged. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote. The claims were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Paula Worden from Community Corrections gave the Commissioners an update on the sprinkler system at the Community Corrections/Work Release building. Koorsen Fire and Security did a sampling of the sprinkler system and the first eight sprinklers had glue in them. Koorsen stated that they would give a discount if Paula was able to find the sprinkler plan and she was able to locate them. The discount will save them around \$1,600 but they are obtaining one more quote before they move forward with replacing all of the sprinkler heads. Due to the sprinkler heads being outdated, any time they are inspected they must be replaced. A full inspection is required every twenty years and we would have to replace them next year anyway. Viking Fire Protection would like to provide Paula with a quote for the sprinklers and they are the company that originally installed them. Commissioner Amber stated that this is a huge safety issue and needs to be addressed as soon as possible. The Commissioners stated that they would like Paula to move forward with the new sprinkler system as soon as she receives both quotes and chooses a company. In regard to a generator for the Community Corrections/Work Release facility, the generator would cost around \$64,000. EMA Director Amy Biggs may be working on obtaining a grant for a generator. Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office presented a new employee to the Commissioners. The new employee is Todd Geiger and he will be an Extension Educator and work with 4-H Youth Development. Todd gave the Commissioners a little background about himself and stated he is very excited to work with the County. Cindy then presented the 2016 Annual Report to the Commissioners. The Extension Office has several different programs including: the Nutrition Education Program, the Whitley County Swine Carcass Show, Whitley County Extension Homemakers, NEPAC Field Days, Captain Cash, Fraud Alert, and Whitley County Master Gardeners. The Nutrition Education Program is a behavior-focused nutrition education that helps individuals and families to select nutritious foods that fit within their budget. The Whitley County Swine Carcass Show is hosted by Purdue Extension and Whitley County Pork Producers with open class and exhibitors gaining experiences and skills in preparing and showing pigs. Whitley County Extension Homemakers’ mission is to strengthen families through continuing education, leadership development, and volunteer community support. NEPAC Field Days is to inform commercial applicators on topics of corn and soybean pest updates, plant population for corn, nutrient management, soybean yield management, nematodes in corn and soybeans, rethinking the sprayer clean out, and herbicide classification and mode of action. The Captain Cash program is taught to elementary students in Whitley County on an “adventures to the islands” of Earning, Saving, Spending and Borrowing. Students learn to become eager earners, savvy savers, wise spenders and careful borrowers. Fraud Alert is taught throughout northeast Indiana. It teaches the three most important items for fraud: how to recognize a scam, how to report a scam and how to check your credit report. The last program, Whitley County Master Gardeners, is a volunteer training program designed to meet the gardening information needs of the community. Cindy also presented statistics for Whitley County, Indiana Agriculture: Then and Now. With no questions from the Commissioners, they thanked Cindy for her informative presentation. Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library had a request to the Commissioners for the reappointment of Donald W. Langeloh to the Peabody Public Library’s Board of Trustees. The term would be for another four years. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve Donald W. Langeloh for the Board of Trustees appointment, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber reported that he and Commissioner Schrupf met with Lana and Ted from BCS Mangement about a Regional Sewer District and Amber stated that the time to move forward with the project is now. The initial need to get the project started is approximately \$30,000 which Amber would like to get from Cedit funds. From that point on, it would be grant generated. Commissioner Amber believes that good sewage causes good growth and the County needs to target certain areas.

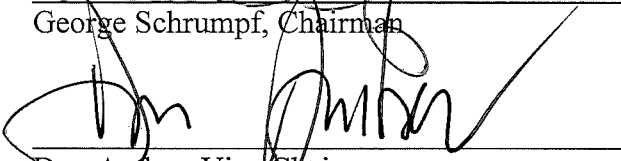
Overall, Commissioner Amber is requesting \$30,000 in Cedit funds to get the process started and if it is approved, he will have Ted and Lana attend the next meeting for any questions or concerns. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table until the next meeting, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber also brought up old business regarding a time management system. The total initial cost for the project would be \$40,900.00 plus the total annual fixed fees of \$27,600.00 for a total of \$66,200.00 for the first year annual cost. Amber stated that he would like to see the County use Cumulative Capital Development funds for this project. Commissioner Amber made a motion for a favorable pass to Council for approval, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schrupf informed the Commissioners that he asked Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant to give him a list of major repairs/projects that are coming up. Schrupf reported that the only major thing coming up that needs replaced is the chiller in the Jail which is \$149,975.00. Auditor Schinbeckler presented the LOIT Quarter Estimate for the first quarter of 2016 to the Commissioners.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrupf adjourned the meeting at 3:05 PM.

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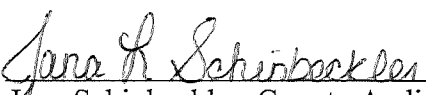
George Schrupf, Chairman



Don Amber, Vice Chairman



Tom Rethlake

Attest: 

Jana Schinbeckler, County Auditor