

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 6, 2016

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, September 6, 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 Pam Smith, Attorney Dan Sigler, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Loren Kauffman, Clerk Debbie Beers, Mark Jesse from A & Z Engineering, Joan Null, Dr. Lisa Hatcher from the Health Department, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Jessica Hockemeyer from the Clerk's Office, County Treasurer Laurell Hodges, Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter and Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:** Attorney Dan Sigler reported to the Commissioners that the Whitehead case has been resolved and he hopes it will be closed by the end of the week. In regard to the McKinney case, the County has a summary judgement filed on our behalf which is a case where the County states there is no issue of law and there is no basis for this claim. If the court grants the summary judgment, the case will be closed as well. In regard to the Bockelman tax sale matter, Sigler prepared a tax deed to transfer the property to the Brockelmans'. The Auditor and the Treasurer need to sign it and if there are any taxes due at this time, they will be responsible to pay them and bring them current. Attorney Sigler stated that he is looking over the contract for "The Right Stuff" Time management and the contract for BCS. He is still reviewing "The Right Stuff" contract but has given his approval for the BCS contract.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SOUTH WHITLEY LIBRARY BOARD REAPPOINTMENT:** The South Whitley Library Board wrote a letter to the Commissioners requesting the reappointment of Shannon Fortman for her second term of four years on the Library Board. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion for Shannon Fortman to be reappointed, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF VOTING LOCATIONS:** Clerk Debbie Beers presented the polling locations to the Commissioners for the November election. There are no changes from the Primary Election in regard to the locations. After reviewing the notice, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF A WELL EXEMPTION:** Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented a well exemption to the Commissioners on behalf of Loren and Paula Kauffman. The request is for the new structure to be closer than ten feet to the existing well. Scott stated they have plenty of space on the property if the well ever needs re-drilled. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the well exemption request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to an issue at Loon Lake, Scott received a complaint for junk and trash. Scott researched the property and took pictures and did recognize that the property was in violation of the County ordinance. Scott then sent a letter to the landowner giving the owner a 30 day notice to clean up the violation. The majority of the junk and trash were boat parts, motors, railings, etc. There are still some existing violations in the yard and Attorney Grossnickle has sent a letter in regard to these violations. Attorney Sigler stated that he believes the County can do nothing further at this time and it would be a civil case with the complainant if they choose to do so.

**IN THE MATTER OF A UTILITY PERMIT REQUEST:** The utility permit request was from NIPSCO requesting to retire gas service at 420 E Keiser Road. Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester had already reviewed the document and gave it his approval. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The minutes from the August 15, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction. Under “In Other Business” the minutes read, “in regard to the Wheeler grant...” and it needs to read, “in regard to the Wheeler Scholarship grant...” Commissioner Amber seconded the motion and motion passed with all in favor. 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 THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR:** County Coordinator Pam Smith presented the 2017 holiday schedule to the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the holiday schedule for non-law enforcement employees, seconded by Schruppf and passed with a 2/0 vote with Rethlake abstaining. Pam Smith presented a request to use County facilities to the Commissioners for Saturday, September 24, 2016. The request is from Sharon Geiger for the use of the parking lot to have a sidewalk block party for Art in the Alley. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. Pam presented an on call policy to the Commissioner for the Highway Department. The Commissioners reviewed the document and Commissioner Amber requested one change. He would like the policy to state that the employee is required to carry a cell phone but it will be provided by the department. The policy states that on-call justification must be presented to the Highway Director or Foreman to validate all on-call duty activity. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table the policy until the next meeting, Amber seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter stated that the Probation Department is required to travel quite often for their education hours. They have been utilizing Community Corrections credit card for most of their trips and now she is requesting the Probation Department have their own County credit card. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve a credit card for the Probation Department, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schruppf recognized Jessica Hockemeyer for her hard work and being inducted into the Indiana Voter Registration Association Hall of Fame. Jessica was nominated by her peers for this induction. The Commissioners thanked Jessica for all of her hard work at the Clerk’s Office. EMA Director Amy Biggs informed the Commissioners that she will have a request for the Council at their meeting tomorrow for a transfer. The transfer is from account 12502 Test/Hazmat Team to account 37001 Training for \$1,000. Whitley County does not have an active Hazmat team and additional funding is needed for the additional training requirements for this position. Commissioner Schruppf stated that Amy requested CPR training assistance with the hospital and he is going to be contacting the hospital to question if they would be willing to work with the County for that training. In regard to County radios, Amy is still working to identify all of the radios with the State. Janelle Schmitt and Amy will be having a conference call in regard to the verifications. There are still some radios that are unaccounted for and the County may never obtain them. Amy reported to the Commissioners that there will be a P25 upgrade required to perform on all of the radios. This upgrade is to make the radios compatible with the State. The Commissioners reviewed the 2017 payroll schedule. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the payroll schedule, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the 2017 meeting schedule, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve, seconded by Schruppf and passed with a 2/0 vote with Rethlake abstaining. Auditor Schinbeckler gave the Commissioners a budget update and announced that the adoption date will be October 4, 2016. In regard to the PERF request from Matt Winger, Attorney Sigler stated that the County needs an agreement between Matt and the County. Commissioner Amber stated that the funding for this needs to come out of the Highway Department PERF account. Attorney Sigler indicated that if Matt is willing to pay for the County’s portion as a donation and pay for his portion that would be his recommendation of how to handle the situation. Commissioner Amber made a motion to handle the issue as recommended by the County Attorney, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to purchasing a brick for the fundraiser for the new pool, the Commissioners decided to not purchase a brick due to not being the proper way to spend taxpayer money. Commissioner

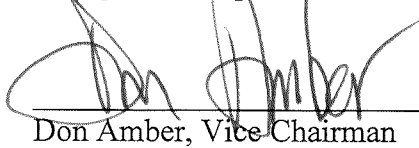
Rethlake reported that there are 75 participants at the Work Release facility and 113 inmates at the Jail. Two of the bathrooms in the Jail were in need of repairs, it was not due to vandalism. In regard to the CEDIT Plan, Rethlake stated that his only concern was the county wide sewer project. He does not want to continue to use the CEDIT plan to fund the sewer project after the first year. Commissioner Schrumpf ensured him that this is a one-time fee and then a board will be created to take over the expenses. Commissioner Amber made a motion for a favorable pass to Council for the CEDIT Plan, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber reported to the Commissioners about the caucus he attended on August 17, 2016. Jeff Turner, Bob Marshall, John Sampson and Michael Galbreath from the Regional Development Authority were all in attendance. There are some concerns that all of the grant funding will be awarded to Allen County and that is not their thought process. As of August 17, 2016, they had granted \$11,000,000 in grant money that goes towards \$87,000,000 in projects. There are quite a few counties that are using their CEDIT plan to help fund these grant projects. Commissioner Schrumpf presented the Whitley County Community Corrections Advisory Board meetings schedule. The Commissioners reviewed the schedule and Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the meetings schedule, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

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

#### **WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

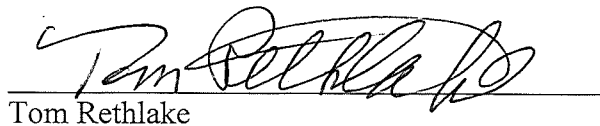
---

George Schrumpf, Chairman




---

Don Amber, Vice Chairman



---

Tom Rethlake

Attest:   
Jana Schinbeckler, County Auditor

