

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 19, 2016

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 19, 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 County Attorney Dan Sigler, Finance Deputy Tamela Hamilton, Tom Western from the County Council, EDC President Jon Myers, Scott Hilliard from Ag Plus, Scott Jones from E911, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Linda Thomson from the Post and Mail, Stanley Crum, Julie Jensen-Kelly, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Planning Director Nathan Bilger and Janelle Schmitt, Sheriff Gatton and Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department.

Chairman Schrupf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Sigler stated that the Wheeler agreement is complete. Sigler informed the Commissioners that he needs a tentative approval for the interested parties for the agreement which would be Mr. Wheeler and the City of Columbia City. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the Wheeler agreement, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 3/0 vote. Attorney Sigler is in the process of working on the Surveyor's agreement that the Commissioners discussed at their previous meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CREDIT CARD REQUEST: Prosecutor Matt Rentschler presented a request to the Commissioners for a credit card. Matt was signing up for his required judicial training in Indianapolis which requires motel stays and he was informed that the Circuit Court does not currently have a County credit card. The problem with not having a County credit card is most hotels do not allow for someone to use the tax exempt status if it is not a County credit card. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the credit card request, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE DIESEL TANK: Sheriff Gatton reported to the Commissioners that the diesel tank behind the jail is testing above the recommendation for EPA numbers. There is one anoid rod which is grounded to the tank to help take some of the "bad" things out from rusting on the tank. There are a few options that they are able to complete. They can either add another rod, which is at least \$5,000 to bring the numbers into compliance or they can install an impressed current system. The impressed current system would cost the County approximately \$15,000 with no guarantee that it will work. The third option is to pull the current tank and install another fiberglass tank. Another option that Sheriff Gatton had was converting the tank to natural gas but then the jail would need their own storage for gas because of a pipeline that runs through the City. The only option that is guarantee to pass their EPA numbers is a new tank. Sheriff Gatton hopes to have all of the quotes for the options and come before the Commissioners the first meeting in January 2017. Commissioner Amber asked if there could be a quote for an above ground tank rather than underground.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESRI LICENSING: Scott Jones from E911 presented a request to the Commissioners for ESRI licensing. This is in regard to the Spillman CAD system that was just installed. During the process of installing the software, they discovered that they will need additional software in order for the mapping to work properly. That would be for a server license and a desktop basic single license. Scott is giving a request to the Commissioners to be taken from E911 funds in the 2017 budget and it is an allowable expense. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the ESRI licensing, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 2/0 vote with Rethlake abstaining.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AND 2017 ANNUAL BIDS: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented the 2016 annual bridge inspection to the Commissioners and provided each of them with a copy of the report. This report is through

Engineering Resources, Inc. Brandon stated that the highlight of the report is the bridge rehabilitation and replacement schedule which is through year 2020. Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester gave his recommendations for the annual highway bids and quotes for 2016. Forrester reviewed all of the bids for the County. Please see the attachment to the minutes to view the bids awarded. After discussion, Commissioner Amber motioned to approve the recommended quotes and bids for the highway department, seconded by Schruppf and passed with a 2/0 vote with Rethlake abstaining. In regard to new highway equipment for 2017, Brandon presented a quote to the Commissioners for a new chip spreader. The amount of a new chip spreader is \$265,000 and the appropriation for equipment in the highway budget for 2017 is \$200,000. Brandon will need to ask the Council for an additional appropriation to purchase the chip spreader. Commissioner Amber made a motion to give a favorable pass to Council for the purchase of a new chip spreader, Schruppf seconded the motion and Rethlake made a request for discussion. Commissioner Rethlake stated he would like for the new Commissioners as of January 1, 2017 to be involved in the decision. Commissioner Amber rescinded his motion at this time. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to table the purchase of the chip spreader, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. Brandon is also looking into purchasing a new skid loader. He gave the Commissioners a quote for the purchase of a new skid loader. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table the purchase of the skid loader, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Last, Brandon and EMA Director Amy Biggs met with Whitley County Consolidated Schools administration and gave them a presentation in regard to transportation. Brandon has also been in contact with the transportation directors at the other schools in the County.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the December 5, 2016 bid meeting were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the bid minutes, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The minutes from the December 5, 2016 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Rethlake with one correction. The minutes under In the Matter of the County Attorney state, "The Commissioners tabled the Winger agreement until the next meeting". It should read, "The Commissioners tabled the Wheeler agreement until the next meeting". Commissioner Schruppf seconded the motion and motion passed with all in favor. The claim distributions from December 5, 2016 through December 19, 2016 were reviewed by the Commissioners. A motion to approve the claims was made by Commissioner Rethlake, seconded by Commissioner Schruppf and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioner's reviewed the payroll claims for December 19, 2016. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Schruppf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR: County Coordinator Pam Smith presented a policy revision to the Commissioners which adds vaping to the smoking policy in the employee policy handbook. Commissioner Schruppf made a motion to approve the policy revision but to also add E-cigarettes to the policy effective January 1, 2017, seconded by Amber and passed with a 2/0 vote with Rethlake abstaining. In regard to the comp time policy, when the policy was amended, there was a small statement that was not included in the policy that was approved. Pam requested that the Commissioners leave out the statement moving forward. Commissioner Schruppf made a motion to leave the statement out of the policy, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote.

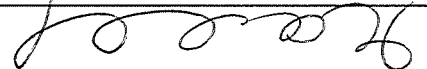
IN OTHER BUSINESS: The Commissioners were presented a right-of-way permit from Frontier Communications. The permit was to bury the necessary cable, pedestals, and attachments adjacent to or under County Road North 450 E South of 600 S to provide telephone service to a nearby home. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the utility permit request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. EDC President Jon Myers presented a memorandum for the Redevelopment request for Indiana Materials Processing, LLC / Briner Construction. The Redevelopment Commission agreed to help pay for some of the soil issues related to the site that the building expansion was going to be built. After some discussions with the builder, the Commission felt that it was fair to split the cost to address some of the soil issues. To correct these

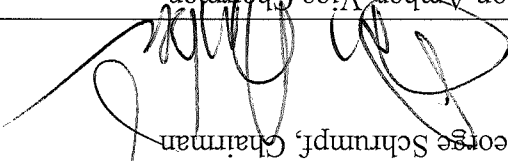
soil issues, the Redevelopment Commission is requesting the Board of Commissioners to pay for half of the cost of the soil work in the amount of \$18,900 from CEDIT funds. The Redevelopment Commission will then reimburse the County for that expenditure pursuant to a reimbursement agreement. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the reimbursement agreement to move forward, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented a plat request to the Commissioners. It is a one lot plat and it will go before the Plan Commission. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to accept the proposed plat, seconded by Schrumpt and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the Whitley County Drainage Board reappointment, Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve Michael Schrader to serve a three year term, seconded by Schrumpt and passed with a 3/0 vote. A Commissioner serves on the Plan Commission for a one year term. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to table the appointment for a Commissioner on the Plan Commission to be tabled, seconded by Schrumpt and passed with a 3/0 vote. There are three citizen members on the Plan Commission as well who are appointed by the Commissioners. Two of these citizens are John Johnson and Doug Wright which have both expressed interest in continuing to serve on the Commission. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to reappoint John Johnson and Doug Wright, seconded by Schrumpt and passed with a 3/0 vote. The third appointment is a fulfillment of a vacancy and Mark Minear is going to have to vacate as of January 1, 2017 due to being elected as County Surveyor. He will continue to serve on the Plan Commission but as an elected official and not a citizen member. This member to replace the vacation must be a non-republican party member due to State statute. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table this appointment, seconded by Schrumpt and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the Whitley County Board of Zoning Appeals, there is one appointment by the Commissioners which is a citizen appointment, and there is no one at this time that Nathan is aware of who is interested in the position. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table the appointment at this time, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. The municipal Plan Commission, there are three appointments needed by the Commissioners. The first is for South Whitley Plan Commission because Karen Jordan resigned and the remainder of her term expires January 2019. At this time, there is no interest in becoming a part of the South Whitley Plan Commission. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to table, seconded by Schrumpt and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second reappointment for Churubusco Plan Commission is for Paula Graewock which her term expires on January 1, 2017. She has expressed interest in being reappointed for another four year term. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to be reappointed to Paula Graewock to be reappointment, seconded by Schrumpt and carried with a 3/0 vote. The third reappointment for the Columbia City Plan Commission is for John Kissinger whose term expires January 1, 2017. He has expressed interest in being reappointed for another four year term. Commissioner Rethlake motioned for John Kissinger to be reappointed to the Columbia City Plan Commission, seconded by Schrumpt and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the Joint Advisory Board, one of the Commissioners serves on the Board and the Commissioners appoint that member. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to table this appointment, seconded by Schrumpt and passed with a 3/0 vote. Deputy Auditor Pamela Hamilton presented the 2016 expenditures for Council on Aging to the Commissioners for approval due to the grant that is received. In 2017, the expenditures for Council on Aging will be approved quarterly for the grant as an internal control. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the 2016 expenditures for the grant, seconded by Schrumpt and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the Resolution of Support for funding Indiana's transportation infrastructure, Commissioner Amber stated that this was from AIC and this resolution is for the Commissioners to send to their Representatives. This resolution states that the Whitley County Board of Commissioners supports more road funding for 2017. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to table the resolution for road funding, seconded by Schrumpt and carried with a 3/0 vote. Pamela presented two claims to the Commissioners that were in question for the County credit card. The first claim was from April Waugh who purchased two gift cards for the County Health Fair. April used the Lab Corp funding the County receives for the purchase. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the claim, seconded by Schrumpt and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second claim was also for the Health Fair for the vendors who participated lunches from Subway. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the claim, seconded by Schrumpt and passed with a 3/0 vote.

Commissioner Rethlake reported that there are 91 individuals in the Jail and 66 in Work Release. Commissioner Amber reported that the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative has started and Whitley County is one of nineteen Counties that are using this program. The State has given the County a grant for this alternative program. Stanley Crum from Wood Land Lakes stated there are some funding issues that he wanted to mention to the Commissioners and the need for the conservation to continue to exist.

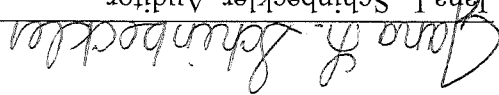
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schruppf adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schruppf, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor