

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 3, 2017

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, January 3, 2017 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 Western. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Deb Stoppenhagen, Shane Stoppenhagen, Stanley Crum, Joan Null, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Jody Hollenbaugh, Sheriff Gatton and Sean Martin from the Sheriff's Department.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE 2017 ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** In regard to the election of officers for the Whitley County Commissioners for 2017, Commissioner Amber nominated George Schrumpf for Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Western nominated Don Amber for Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCUSSION OF THE CARL DOWNING COESSE HOUSE:** Scott Wagner from the Health Department stated that there is an issue with the Coesse sewer that was installed last year. Mr. Downing came to Scott stating that he had flooding in his basement and he never had the problem before the sewer system was installed. Scott told him that if he can prove it is the County's fault then the County would reimburse him for the damages. Mr. Downing hired several companies to investigate what caused the flooding. They found that Crosby Excavating cut the line to complete the connection so that has caused backup in his basement. There is limestone blocking the access to the tile. There are three bills that Mr. Downing has turned into Scott. The three bills are from Redman Plumbing and Heating, Premier Earth, Inc. and Roto Rooter Plumbing and Drain Service for a total of \$548.71. Mike Wigent of Premier Earth, Inc. was hired by Mr. Downing to look at his tile issue. Scott contacted Mr. Wigent which contacted GAI Consultants who were the lead on the project. GAI replied to Mr. Wigent and stated that to fix the issue it would take the following: saw cut and dig up the six inch storm drain and connect to clay with a six inch SDR 35, use #9 limestone and fill to asphalt with #73 limestone and no asphalt patch included for a total of \$1,500.00. Commissioner Amber stated that this may not be paid out of tax payer's money because the County hired GAI Consultants to oversee the project and it was their responsibility to have an on-site supervisor. The Commissioners believe the GAI Consultants are the ones who will ultimately reimburse Mr. Downing. Commissioner Amber made a motion to reimburse MR. Downing for the \$548.71, seconded by Commissioner Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REZONING REQUEST:** Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented a request to the Commissioners for a rezoning request. This is a request for the former store on Tri Lakes and to change the zoning from General Commercial to Lake Residential District. The Kwik Mart store closed last year and the owner was in attendance if the Commissioners have any questions. The owner has been trying to sell the property but potential buyers want to purchase it for the residential component and are unable to obtain a loan because it is zoned as General Commercial. The Plan Commission has already approved the rezoning request. Commissioner Western made a motion to rezone the property per Ordinance 2017-01, seconded by Commissioner Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** County Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented a request to the Commissioners in regard to their equipment needs for 2017. Brandon gave the Commissioners specifications for a new chip spreader that is needed. The County will need to advertise for the chip spreader to receive bids from different vendors. The bids will be due by the first Commissioner's meeting in February. Brandon hopes the

Commissioners will then be able to approve a bid so he can get it ordered and delivery will be 80-120 days after ordering. Based on research there will probably only be two companies that will turn in bids that meet these specifications. The highway has \$200,000 budgeted for equipment in 2017. Just for the chip spreader, the budget would be \$60,000 short. Brandon is also requesting the purchase of an additional skid loader to birm the roads to help with drainage. Commissioner Schrupf asked if Brandon has the asset list completed and Brandon informed the Commissioners it is on his list to complete soon. Brandon stated that he believes with the new chip spreader they can chip seal 100 miles of roads in 5 weeks. Commissioner Western made a motion to give a favorable pass to the Council for the purchase of the chip spreader and the skid loader, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber presented a Resolution of Support: Funding Indiana's Transportation Infrastructure. This states that the Whitley County Commissioners or Whitley County Council urge the Indiana General Assembly to identify and approve legislation that proves sustainable and long term increases in the Indiana's transportation funding which includes necessary increases in state funding of local road and bridge infrastructure. Furthermore, the Whitley County Board of Commissioners directs the Auditor to send a copy of this resolution to Representative David Ober, Representative Christopher Judy, Senator Andy Zay, Governor Eric Holcomb and Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve and sign the Resolution of Support, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners asked the Auditor to also send it to Representative David Long as well.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR:** County Coordinator Pam Smith presented a change to the 4/2 holiday schedule to the Commissioners. The holiday schedule that was originally approved stated Monday, January 2, 2017 for New Year's Day but it should be changed to Sunday, January 1, 2017. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the change, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The minutes from the December 19, 2016 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Amber, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 2/0 vote with Western abstaining. The claim distributions from December 19, 2016 through January 3, 2017 were reviewed by the Commissioners. A motion to approve the claims per Commissioner Amber was made by Commissioner Western, seconded by Commissioner Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioner's reviewed the payroll claims for January 3, 2017. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.


**IN THE MATTER OF COMMITTEES FOR 2017:** The Commissioners discussed the committees for 2017. Commissioner Schrupf will serve on the Board of Finance, the Redevelopment Commission, the Community Corrections Advisory Board, the Personnel Committee, Solid Waste Board, the Investment Board and the EDC Investment Board. Commissioner Amber will serve on the Board of Finance, Building Maintenance and Security Committee, the Highway, the Fee Committee, the Region 3A Board Executive Board, the Solid Waste Board, Health Board (non-voting), the Historical Committee, Emergency Management and Safety Committee. Commissioner Western will serve on the Board of Finance, the Drainage Board, the Parcel Committee, the Planning Commission/Joint Advisory Board, the Solid Waste Board, the Public Records Commission and the EMS Oversight Committee.

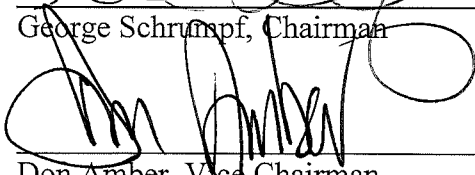
**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Sheriff Gatton informed the Commissioners that the diesel tank behind the Jail is not meeting Indiana Department of Environmental Management's requirements. Sheriff Gatton presented a quote to the Commissioners for a new tank from Gasoline Equipment for \$46,163.00 as long as there is not any contaminated soil. This quote is for the removal and installation of a new underground generator tank. A new tank probe will be installed because of size variation. The County needs to respond to IDEM by January 12, 2017 to let them know the tank is being replaced. Sheriff Gatton did try to obtain a quote to convert the tank to natural gas or LP and he never received a call back. Commissioner Amber made a motion to send the quote to Council for approval, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Auditor Jana Schinbeckler

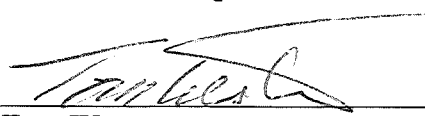
presented the Interlocal Agreement to the Commissioners that is between Whitley County and the Whitley County Solid Waste District for 2017. The only change for the interlocal agreement is that the Solid Waste District will reimburse the County \$2 per household instead of a flat rate of \$12,000 for administrative expenses. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners recently made some changes for the voluntary group life insurance. The Commissioners, Council and County Attorney are able to keep their voluntary life insurance but the Commissioners will be removing the Economic Development Corporation and the Solid Waste District. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve these changes for voluntary life insurance, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The County Coordinator Pam Smith created a new Policy Handbook effective January 1, 2017 and has distributed the handbook to employees. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the new Policy Handbook effective January 1, 2017, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.


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

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
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George Schrupf, Chairman

  
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Don Amber, Vice Chairman

  
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Tom Western

Attest:   
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Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

