

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 3, 2017

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, July 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 Schrupf and Commissioner Thomas Western. Commissioner Don Amber was absent. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pamela Smith, LeeAnn Snyder from South Whitley, Kelley Sheiss from Whitley County Farmers, Barbara Bratt from Whitley County Farmers, Janet Arnold from South Whitley, Karen Jordan from South Whitley, Eric Baumert from South Whitley, Linda Thompson from the Post & Mail, Rachael Rosfeld from the Post & Mail, Erin Auer, Gary Hicks from Cleveland Township, Phil Dierks, Trisha Hinen from Whitley County Farmers, Joan Baumert, Janelle Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Marc Gatton, Tyler Roebuck from IN Whitley County, Joe Lopez from Adlock LLC, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Pat Unger and Scott Sigerfoos from Lutheran Hospital, Leslee Derbeck from STAR Insurance, Randall Cokl from the Town of South Whitley, Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department, Scott Gabriel from Parkview Health, Emily Studebaker from Studebaker Farms and Planning Director Nathan Bilger.

Chairman Schrupf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LIQUID ASPHALT AND LIQUID ASPHALT EMULSION BIDS:** The Commissioners opened the bids for liquid asphalt and liquid asphalt emulsion. Pierceton Trucking submitted a bid for Item #3 which is liquid asphalt. Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester recommended that the Commissioners accept the bid from Pierceton Trucking. Commissioner Western made a motion to accept the bid, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 2/0 vote. Asphalt Materials submitted a bid for Items #3 and #4 which is liquid asphalt emulsion. Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester recommended that the Commissioners accept the bid from Asphalt Materials. Commissioner Western made a motion to accept the bids from Asphalt Materials, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 2/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF CONTRACTS:** Sheriff Gatton had some questions for the Commissioners regarding the EMS contract. The Sheriff stated that he has heard the Parkview EMS contract is best for Whitley County but his question is how do we know it's best? Commissioner Schrupf stated that there are several different reasons the Commissioners thought it was best. One reason is because Whitley County was one of the last Counties to join the Parkview EMS system. Whitley County was one of the last Counties because the Commissioners wanted to ensure that it did work and Schrupf stated that the Commissioners did their due diligence. Sheriff Gatton gave an isolated incident to the Commissioners that happened the previous week. It was a cardiac arrest and it took the EMS 21 minutes to get to the scene because it was stationed in Roanoke.

**IN THE MATTER OF EMS DISPATCHING:** Randy Cokl from the Town of South Whitley gave a presentation to the Commissioners in regard to dispatching the Lutheran EMS for South Whitley. Randy wanted to cover five things: the need, the process, the cost, community outreach and the vision for the future. The first aspect is why there is a need for two ambulance services in South Whitley. The median age is 35 years old and 22% of the population are age 55 and older. They have industry with heavy machinery and toxic chemicals along with having two schools in the area. As of now, the ambulance coverage is unpredictable and the residents of South Whitley would like to see that change. In regard to the process, if an accident or illness occurs, 911 is called and they call the Whitley County Sheriff's Department dispatch center. Dispatch gathers pertinent information and if the incident is occurring outside of South Whitley or Cleveland the call can be transferred to Parkview dispatch. If the incident occurs within South Whitley or Cleveland, EMS certified personnel give further instruction and the Lutheran EMS and first responders are simultaneously dispatched using Med channel 10 and the fire channel. If other sources are needed, they will be dispatched and responding personnel will be given complete information: where the location of the problem is, what the problem is, patient status, landmarks if needed and patient updates. The run times are recorded on the CAD system and medics and responders will be checked on after any period of inactivity and the patient will be given the option of which hospital they would like transported to. In the case of the patient being unresponsive, the transport options will be made by the medics. If an emergency occurs during the Lutheran EMS absence, the call will be transferred to Parkview EMS. In regard to the cost of the Lutheran EMS, the EMS will be housed at the Cleveland Township Fire Department and EMS facility at no cost. A contractual agreement is in place to hold harmless any negligence on the part of Lutheran EMS as well as holding Lutheran EMS harmless of any negligence on the part of the Whitley County Sheriff's

Department. An EMS recertification cost will be split between the Town of South Whitley and Lutheran Health Network. In regard to radio equipment, the base station failure and routine maintenance will be covered under the County's current contract. New equipment for the ambulance and medics is the responsibility of Lutheran Health Network. Employee uniforms, wages and fuel is paid for by Lutheran. The employee recertification is paid by the employees. They have some ideas in place for community outreach and their vision for the future is having a dedicated ambulance service in South Whitley, with local dispatching and the added benefit of secondary service. This ensures the residents of southwest Whitley County the commitment to responsive urgent health care. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Cokl for his presentation and his time.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPROVAL OF WHEELER WOODS PLAT:** Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented a plat that was approved by the Plan Commission in May. The name of the plat is Wheeler Woods Plat and the Commissioners did not have any questions for Nathan. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the plat, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Commissioners that calcium chloride has been applied to the gravel roads in the County for dust. There were 82 miles of gravel road and the calcium chloride was placed in front of residences and at intersections. Beth is working on a grant with INDOT for railroad crossings safety improvements which would be pavement markings and signage. This grant will be presented to the Commissioners at their next meeting for their approval. Brandon submitted a job description to Pam for a new employee and it will be included in the 2018 budget.

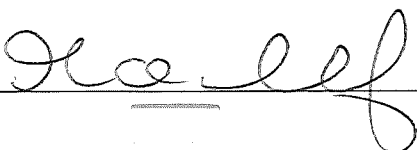
**IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The minutes from the June 19, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. The Commissioner's reviewed the payroll claims. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR:** County Coordinator Pamela Smith presented the 2017 annual wage fact sheet to the Commissioners. Pam presented three different options to the Commissioners in regard to raises for 2018. The first option is a \$0.70 per hour wage increase which totals to \$1,365.00 increase. The second option is a \$0.50 per hour wage increase which totals \$975.00 increase. The third option is a \$0.40 per hour wage increase which totals to \$780.00 increase. Next year, 2018, it also a special year because there will be 27 pays instead of 26 for the County. Pam recommended to the Commissioners, based on the information she gathered, a \$0.40 raise and to pay the 27<sup>th</sup> pay. The Whitley County Government average wage for 2017 is \$37,097.00 and the 2016 Whitley County average wage based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics was \$37,440.00. Commissioner Western made a motion to give a favorable pass to Council for the 27<sup>th</sup> pay and a \$0.40 raise across the board to employees, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. Pam stated that the current factoring for wages in regard to positions has not worked out recently and she has been looking into alternative ways to factor positions. The ultimate goal would be to not have a Personnel Committee to internally factor positions. Pam's recommendation is to go with an outside firm to factor positions. There were quotes from different entities but there was a company that has a lot of experience, been factoring positions since 1989, and he is in 37 different states and he works with municipalities, local governments, etc. The hope is for him to start factoring the positions in November 2017 and he would begin with factoring 74 distinct full time positions. The initial startup cost for the factoring is \$25,000.00 for this company which was the least expensive. Commissioner Western made a motion to give a favorable pass to Council to use MDH HR Consulting for factoring wages for the County, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote.

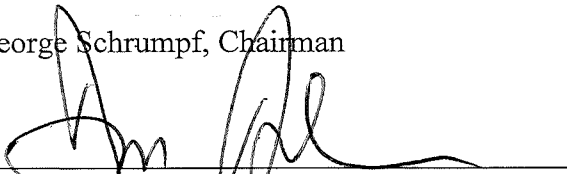
**IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS:** The right-of-way permit presented to the Commissioners was from O.R. Colan Utility and Infrastructure on the behalf of AEP Indiana Michigan Transmission Company, Inc. The request was to add a telecommunication line to allow electric substations to communicate with each other along East Paige Road between Mowrey Road and Lincolnway. Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester has already given his approval. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 1:35 pm.

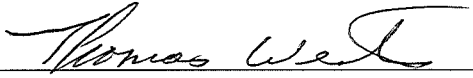
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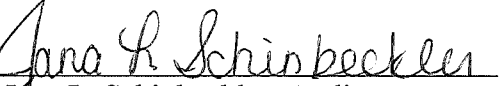
George Schrumpf, Chairman



Don Amber, Vice Chairman



Thomas Western

Attest:   
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

