

**WHITLEY COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL JOINT MEETING**

**February 27, 2019**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in joint regular session Wednesday, February 27, 2019 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 Thomas Western and Commissioner Don Amber. Council members in attendance were Chairman Thor Hodges, Vice Chairman Chad Banks, Kim Wheeler, Tom Warner, Timothy Kumfer and Bill Overdeer. Absent was Council member John Barrett. Others in attendance were County Attorney Matt Shipman, County Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator/HR Director Angela Campbell, Todd Samuelson from Umbaugh, Paula Worden from Community Corrections, Sheriff Gatton, Jail Commander Sean Martin, EDC President Jon Myers, Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter, Julie Jensen-Kelley from Community Corrections, Senator Andy Zay and Judge Fahl.

Chairman Schrupf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hodges called the Council meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE JAIL INCOME TAX DISCUSSION:** Todd Samuelson from Umbaugh gave a presentation to the Commissioners and Council regarding the new LIT (Local Income Tax) Correctional Facility that is being offered to counties to adopt. Per Umbaugh's report, the estimated revenue at 0.20% would be \$1,687,000.00 annually. The estimated annual income tax liability to the taxpayers would be \$795.16 per year for a household with a taxable income of \$54,041.00. The funds generated from this income tax would be strictly the County's funds, it is not a tax that shall be shared with the other taxing units within the County. If this tax is adopted by the Council, the County will receive the first distribution in 2020. Prosecutor DJ Sigler stated that the County needs to find a way to deal with low level offenders. The low level offenders would include serial and repeat offenders, drug offenders and anyone who consistently makes poor decisions to end up back in Jail. This was the purpose of the Jail Task Force, to find a resolution to our problem. Senator Andy Zay stated that each one of his counties that he represents all have this issue and are each handling it differently. He mentioned HB 1006, 1010, 1065 and 1078 which all pertain to this issue. Senator Zay also stated that 47 of the 92 counties have overcapacities in their jails. Judge Fahl stated that part of the issue is that there are individuals who don't follow the rules and someone doesn't participate in their rehabilitation. The repeat offenders are the main individuals who would be able to go to a technical violator's facility such as this. Judge Fahl stated that we would continue to work with them but in a more controlled environment. Due to all of this information and the Jail overcrowding, the Commissioners and the Jail Task Force are requesting the Council to adopt the new rate in order for the County to build a correctional facility and to relieve the overcrowding in the jail.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW POSITION DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Schrupf stated that the Human Resources/County Coordinator position and the Commissioners need more help and assistance on a daily basis to accomplish daily tasks and other duties. The Commissioners presented a new job description to the Council, which Waggoner Irwin Scheele has written and determined the amount of the wage. The position factored as a PAT 3, which the base salary is \$44,642.00 and the position is the Human Resources Assistant. The Council didn't have any questions or comments at this time.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrupf and Chairman Hodges adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

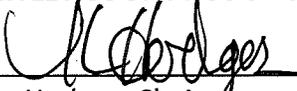
**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George Schrupf, Chairman

  
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Thomas Western, Vice Chairman

  
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Don Amber, Commissioner

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL



Thor Hodges, Chairman



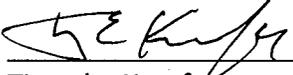
Chad Banks, Vice Chairman



Kim Wheeler



Thomas Warner

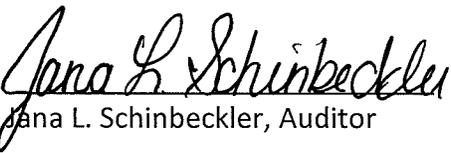


Timothy Kumfer



William Overdeer

John Barrett

Attest:   
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor