

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 1, 2019

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 1, 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 Schrumpf, Vice Chairman Thomas Western and Commissioner Don Amber. Others in attendance were Attorney Sam Ladowski, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Jill Snyder from Whitley County DFI, Mark & Alayne Johnson from Shady Grove Farms, EDC President Jon Myers, Joan Null, Johan Bernard, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant, Kyle Pepler from the Maintenance Department, Sonya Emerick, Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office, Denita Patrick and Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE WHITLEY COUNTY DFI GRANT REQUEST: Jill Snyder presented the Whitley County Drug Free Indiana 2018 request for grant funding to the Commissioners. The total amount requested is \$34,933.40 which is split up into four categories. The four categories are prevention/education, treatment/intervention, criminal justice services and administrative costs. Commissioner Amber made a motion to give a favorable pass to Council to approve the DFI grant funding, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE FACILITY PROJECT REPORT: Mark Sturtevant from the Maintenance Department was present to review the facility projects for 2019 with the Commissioners. The first request Mark had was for the elevators in the Government Center and Jail. Due to the State having a new inspector, the County has received elevator violations that need to be fixed immediately. In order to fix the Government Center violations, the total is \$2,024.00 which is to replace the control panels in the elevators. In order to fix the Jail violations it is \$15,818.00 which includes a traveling cable for \$13,115.00 and rust remediation for \$2,703.00 giving a total of \$17,842.00.

In regard to the 2019 facility projects, Mark's top priority projects are:

Jail:

44 Bradley Lavatory Valves: \$76,780

HVAC Software Upgrade: \$25,000

Courthouse:

Remainder of 4 Heat Pumps: \$35,000

East Steps: \$7,100

North Sidewalk: \$45,750

South Sidewalk: \$29,400

South Steps: \$2,980

Government Center:

Boiler Restoration: \$20,000

Work Release:

Masonry Restoration (Water Damage): \$13,094

After reviewing the projects, Commissioner Western made a motion to pass the projects onto Council to find the funding to fund the projects, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE REZONING REQUEST: Planning Director Nathan Bilger informed the Commissioners that the Zuechow rezoning request has been withdrawn so the only request that he has now is the Johnson rezoning request. The Plan Commission gave a unanimous favorable recommendation to the Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the Johnson rezoning request per Ordinance 2019-03, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDC ANNUAL REPORT: EDC President Jon Myers presented the 2018 EDC Annual Report to the Commissioners. Jon highlighted various aspects of the County for 2018 such as 46 new jobs with a \$29 hourly wage, \$2,000,000 in increased tax revenues and the unemployment rate is still at 2.9%. The total population for Whitley County in 2018 was 33,817 and the median household income was \$60,126. Assessed values also continue to increase each year with the new companies coming into Whitley County. Jon also reported that the EDC has been working with companies to give them incentives such as training grants instead of tax abatements.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EXTENSION UPDATE: Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office discussed the various 4-H programs that the Extension Office has. In August 2018, 150 participants attended the Local Farmers Benefit from NEPAC Field Day which gave them information on soybean crop updates, corn updates, weed control, agronomic fertility and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The Junior Leaders have also been very active in the community through services learning projects such as shopping for Toys for Tots and ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. John Woodmansee also organized the Timer

Marketing Program and it offered a forest management and timber marketing program attended by 19 participants. The Whitley County Extension Homemakers are 130 adults in 10 clubs throughout Whitley County. Each year they sponsor the Adult Open Class exhibit during the 4-H Fair, the Holiday Bazaar and Quilt show and two garage sales. The 4-H STEM Connection program incorporates a "team" of high school students who help develop, plan, and practice hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities to take out into the community, schools and other youth serving organizations to interact with younger youth. So far in 2019, there are 789 youth enrolled in the Whitley County 4-H program along with 130 adult volunteers. The Feeder Calf was the largest 4-H project with 158 youth participating in it. Cindy also went over her programs Block Party, Without a Will and Pond and Wildlife Management.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Commissioners that last week the department completed their passer rating which is a system for road pavement condition and every road in the County was evaluated. With this passer rating, the Highway Department will develop their 2019 road project program in conjunction with the Community Crossings projects. Brandon received the executed contracts with INDOT for the Community Crossings award that we received in 2018 for work in 2019. He has also worked with the lowest bidder, which was Fend and Brown, for this project and created a change order for the project. Fend and Brown has accepted the change order and changed the amount of their bid/contract and reduced it by \$85,039. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the change order for the project, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Western made a motion to accept the bid from Fend & Brown for the project, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. There is also other Community Crossings projects Brandon is working on. We received \$592,113.25 for these five projects and there is a separate contract for each project. Brandon is hoping the Commissioners can open bids for these projects on May 6th. The INDOT projects are 44-26, 44-27, 44-28, 44-29 and 44-30. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the contracts for INDOT projects 44-26, 44-27, 44-28, 44-29 and 44-30, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber amended his motion for the Chairman to sign as well, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Brandon then presented the 2019 annual operational report to the Commissioners. He needs the Commissioner's approval to submit it to the State. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the 2018 Annual Highway Operational Report, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: Two right-of-way permits were presented the Commissioners. The first permit request was from Century Link to place a repeater on a new stub pole at the location in order to provide the requested service on CR 600 N. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the Century Link permit request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request was from Mediacom for the installation of duct and coax cable by directional bore in order to place fiber optic cables on CR 600 N/CR 650 E. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the permit request, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the March 18, 2019 regular Commissioner meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes, seconded by Schruppf and passed with a 2/0 vote with Amber abstaining. After reviewing the payroll claims, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from March 18, 2019 through April 1, 2019 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

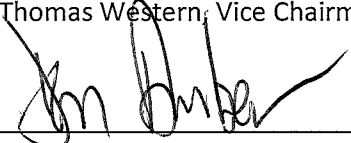
IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Schruppf stated that the Commissioners have given time for the public to review the well ordinance from the Health Department and now they need to consider it for approval. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-02, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schruppf presented a request to use County facilities from Abbi Ogden, Director of the Human Society of Whitley County. They would like to use the extra parking at the Highway Department on April 13, 2019 for Neuter for a Nickel which will be 6:30AM to 4:00PM. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, 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 Schruppf adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schruppf, Chairman


Thomas Western, Vice Chairman



Don Amber, Commissioner

Attest: Jana L. Schinbeckler
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

