

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 15, 2019

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, July 15, 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 Schruppf, Commissioner Don Amber and Vice Chairman Thomas Western. Others in attendance were Attorney Matt Shipman, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Commissioner's Assistant Jennifer Shinabery, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Becky Salaway from WC Council on Aging, Lonnie Norris & Kathy Hartman from Granite Ridge Builders, Nathan Bilger & Mark Cullnane from WC Planning Dept., Brandon Forrester from WC Highway Dept., Theresa Green, EDC President Jon Myers, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public, Amanda Lawrence from SJCA Engineers, Kelly Zorger, Tom & Cheryl Milligan, Pam Hitzeman, Emily Studebaker, John Meistel, Nathan Lundy, J Rogers, Patrick Hess, Cheryl Wagers and Denita Patrick.

Chairman Schruppf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Schruppf asked for a moment of silence for our Fallen K-9 Officer Cas.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Matt Shipman informed the Commissioners he reviewed the lease agreement for the building that Parkview is donating and wanted to give his approval to move forward if it comes to that while he is out of the office. He also presented the memorandum between the City and Highway Department in reference to work that has already been done during the SDI Sewer Project in reference to some roads that needed to be fixed. A motion was made to approve the agreement by Commissioner Amber with a second by Commissioner Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Attorney Shipman also gave an update about an ongoing lawsuit with Mr. Dyson and the Supreme Court.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PLAT APPROVAL & REZONING REQUEST: Nathan Bilger from the Planning and Building Department presented 2 plats to be approved one being Seity's Hill Plat that was approved by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the plat with a second by Commissioner Amber, passing with a 3/0 vote. Nathan then presented the second being Eel River Bluffs that was also approved by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve with a second by Commissioner Western passing with a 3/0 vote. In the matter of the rezoning the 60 acres from AG to RR it had an unfavorable recommendation from the Planning Commission for Granite Builders. Commissioner Amber stated that he would like to see this addressed in the near future with some commitments from Granite Ridge so that maybe they would be able to move on with the rezoning to provide housing so that Whitley County can grow and benefit from this. Attorney Shipman asked about a few different options that could be done so that the rezoning could be presented again to the Commissioners before the 90th day to make a decision before the September 26th meeting. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table to request until commitments are received from Granite Builders. Second made by Commissioner Western tabling with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2nd QTR VOUCHER APPROVAL: Becky Salaway presented the 2nd quarter voucher that needs to be signed off on. After being presented with supporting documentation showing the \$83,332 Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request to sign the Voucher, with a second from Commissioner Western, passing with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented an amended agreement with INDOT that had changes made including the dollar amount to be reduced. This needs to be signed off on by the Chairman. Commissioner Amber made a motion to have Chairman Schruppf sign the amended agreement, followed by a second from Commissioner Western. Passing with a 3/0 vote. Brandon then gave an update on the Community Crossings Grant. Phend & Brown should have phase 1 completed by September 15th, followed by phase II starting very soon with a completion date of September 15th as well. Brandon also wanted to let the Commissioners know about the rate increase on water from the City. Brandon then gave report that starting next week the Highway Department will be chip/sealing 28 miles of roadways, and should take roughly 3 weeks to complete. The last order of business presented from County Engineer Brandon Forrester was that he was letting the Commissioners know about an expense that will be coming for their computer software upgrade totaling to be near \$3,000.

Right of Way permits are as follows; For NIPSCO at 600 E was passed with a motion made by Commissioner Amber, second by Commissioner Western passing with 3/0 vote. Century Link had 5 locations including Whitley Rd, Keiser Rd, Bird Rd, Shoreline Dr. and Washington Rd all had a motion to be approved by Commissioner Western with a second from Commissioner Amber all passing with 3/0 votes.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: 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 July 1st, 2019 through July 15th, 2019 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

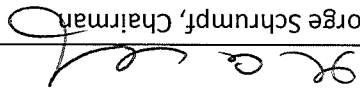
The minutes from the July 1st, 2019 regular Commissioner meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes, seconded by Schruppf and passed with a 2/0 vote. Commissioner Western abstained from the vote as he was absent for the July 1 meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Attorney Shipman presented a lease with Reiff Enterprises that he had read through during the meeting for additional office space and finds that it is acceptable. Western made a motion to approve the lease with a second by Amber carrying forward with a 3/0 vote. Also there is an ongoing contract with Peterson Consulting that Attorney Shipman finds acceptable. Commissioner Western made a motion to allow Chairman Schrumpf to sign with a second by Commissioner Amber, with a 3/0 vote.

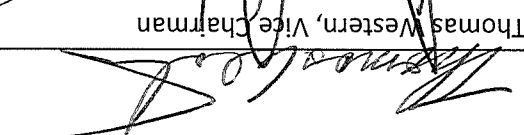
Commissioner Amber made a request to have County Offices closed from 9:30-12 PM on July 17th, 2019 for the Memorial Service for Cas so that County employees may pay their respects to Cas and the Sheriff's Department. Motion was made by Amber with a second by Western and carrying forward with a 3/0 vote.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.

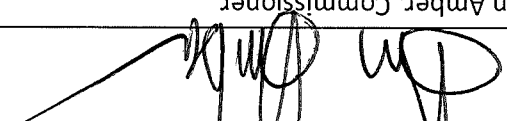
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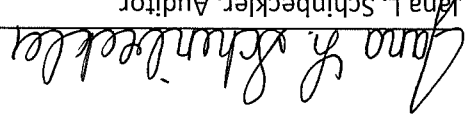
 George Schrumpf, Chairman



 Thomas Western, Vice Chairman



 Don Amber, Commissioner

Attest: 

 Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor