

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 3, 2019

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, September 3, 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 Tom Western and Commissioner Don Amber. Others in attendance were Attorney Matt Shipman, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Commissioner's Assistant Jennifer Shinabery, Becky Salaway from Whitley County Council on Aging, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, EDC President Jon Myers, Kennedy St. George from the EDC, Sonya Emerick, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Dan Monaco from EMA, Joan Null, Stanley Crum, Whitley County Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Cheryl Wagers, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Bill Etzler from Engineering Resources and Denita Patrick.

Chairman Schrupf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Matt Shipman has reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the County for the E911 system. Commissioner Amber stated that this is not for funding, it is simply to have an agreement for dispatching. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the memorandum of understanding and allow Commissioner Schrupf to sign, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE POLLING LOCATIONS: Whitley County Clerk Cindy Doolittle presented the polling locations to the Commissioners for the Municipal General Election. Cindy stated that if the Commissioners approve the polling locations, they will be advertised by her office to the public. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the polling locations, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR BOARD RECOMMENDATION: EMA Director Amy Biggs is requesting the approval from the Commissioners to appoint a new Deputy Director. Amy is requesting the Commissioners approve Daniel Monaco for the position. He has a Master's Degree in Emergency Management and is also a Hazardous Materials Technician. These qualifications along with his 10 year experience as a Fort Wayne Firefighter will enable him to readily being the responsibilities and duties of the job. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Daniel Monaco for the EMA Deputy Director position, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONSIDERATION OF TIF AMENDMENT: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented an Amending Declaratory Resolution for the TIF area to add nine properties to the Union TIF District. Nathan stated that they are waiting on a form list of properties from Redevelopment Attorney Andy Boxberger. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table until they received the list of properties, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE BROADBAND READY COMMUNITY DESIGNATION ORDINANCE: Kennedy St. George from the EDC presented an ordinance for a broadband ready community designation, which means that the County is accepting of all types of internet that would like to come into the County. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-10 for broadband ready community designation, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE VOUCHER SIGNATURE: Becky Salaway from Whitley County Council on Aging presented the second van voucher to be reimbursed by the grant for their new van. The amount for the voucher is \$43,120 and the Chairman would need to sign the voucher. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the voucher and for the Chairman to sign, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE BRANCH COURT PROPERTY AGREEMENT: Attorney Shipman stated that Parkview has signed the Branch Court documents and the Commissioners just need to sign the agreement and the quit claim deed now. The Commissioners thanked Parkview for the building.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2020 SCHEDULES: The Commissioner's reviewed the 2020 schedules. The first schedule they reviewed was the holiday schedule. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the holiday schedule, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second schedule they reviewed was the 4/2 holiday schedule. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the 4/2 holiday schedule, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The next schedule they reviewed was their meeting schedule. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the meeting schedule, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners then reviewed the accounts payable schedule for 2020. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the accounts payable schedule, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester gave the Commissioners an update on the Community Crossings project. Brandon then informed the Commissioners that the Council approved him to order two new single axle trucks. Commissioner Amber made a motion to allow Brandon to start accepting bids for the two single axle trucks, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: There were several right-of-way permit requests for the Commissioner to review and approve. The first two requests were from Precision Utilities Group. The first was to bore in the right-of-way to provide service to a new customer at 2175 E Bair Rd. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request from Precision Utilities was to bore under the road to provide service to a customer at 375 W 200 N. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The next two requests were from BSM Groups for Indiana Fiber Network. The first request was to bore in the right-of-way to provide service to a new customer on US Hwy 30 and 700 East. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request from BSM Groups was to bore in the right-of-way to provide service to a customer on 200 N. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The last five requests were from NipSCO. The first request from NipSCO was to extend a gas main on Valley View Drive. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The next request was to extend a gas main on Medallion Blvd. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The third request from NipSCO was to extend the gas main on Meadow Drive. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The next request was to extend a gas main on Willie Court and the last request was to extend a gas main on Blue Grass Drive. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve both requests, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

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 August 19, 2019 through September 3, 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. The minutes from the August 19, 2019 meeting were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: A longevity pay date for 2019 was presented to the Commissioner's for their approval of November 26, 2019. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Scott Wagner presented two bids to the Commissioners for the demolition of the property on 350 West. Scott is waiting on the final authorization from the Judge to demolish the property. There were two quotes received for the demolition of the property. Whitley Environmental gave the first quote for \$13,900 and the second bid was from Wigent Excavating for \$19,750. Commissioner Western made a motion to accept the Whitley Environmental bid, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. Scott also gave two quotes for Weights and Measures equipment. The first was for a slide on unit that allows him to move the weights and a trailer to transport the weights and other materials. The slide on unit had a quote of \$21,000 and the trailer was \$30,000. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the trailer purchase and for Scott to pick it up in New Jersey rather than having it delivered, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners would also like him to look into getting information on a pick-up truck. Commissioner Amber stated that the Governor of Indiana has appointed a committee to come up with an energy plan and their first meeting in August 26th. The Committee is said to be lobbying to take away local authority when it comes to wind and solar power decisions. Commissioner Amber thanked Joan Null for bringing this to their attention and he wants to keep up on this issue.

IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS: Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester brought up the agreement with Baker Tilley for the services they provided for the bonds regarding the Government Center. They are requesting us to pay the invoice but the Commissioners have not signed or approved the agreement yet. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the agreement and the invoice, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumptf adjourned the meeting at 2:05 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

George Schrumptf, Chairman

Thomas Western, Vice Chairman

Don Amber, Commissioner

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