

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 4, 2019

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, November 4, 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 and Commissioner Don Amber. Vice Chairman Thomas Western was absent. Others in attendance were Attorney Matt Shipman, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Commissioner's Assistant Jennifer Shinabery, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Sonya Emerick, Michael Johnston, Josh Goodman, Bill Etzler from ERI, Amanda Lawrence from SJCA Engineers, Jason Doctor, Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder and Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library.

Chairman Schrupf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Matt Shipman presented an agreement and conflict letter to the Commissioners to begin working with an attorney from Fort Wayne that specializes in Human Resources and employment laws. The proposed waiver of conflict letter for them is for Gary Johnson at Beckman Lawson LLP and it is due to them previously or currently representing clients before the Whitley County Area Plan Commission. Attorney Shipman stated that it seems appropriate and stated that it would be a great resource for the County. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the agreement and waiver of conflict letter, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 2/0 vote. Attorney Shipman is also working on some ordinances with Scott Wagner for the Health Department and he is working on a policy for the fuel facility with Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEALTH BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS & WELL VARIANCE: Scott Wagner presented two Health Board Member re-appointments to the Commissioners. The re-appointments were for Dr. Gilliom and Dr. Lieb to serve another term. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the re-appointments and for the Chairman to sign, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 2/0 vote. The well variance request is for Jason Doctor, who is building a brand new house. He hired Klutz Well Drilling, Inc. to drill the well and they drilled it without notifying Scott or the homeowner and drilled it too close to the structure. The well is about eight feet from the structure and per County ordinance it is to be ten feet. Commissioner Amber made a motion for Scott to send a letter to the vendor and inform them that they will either be fined or fined next time it happens, Commissioner Schrupf seconded for discussion. Commissioner Schrupf stated that we will also need a hold harmless agreement at the next meeting to be approved and signed. The motion passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Commissioners that the highway department has been working on their passer ratings for the 2020 road program. There was around 72 miles of road that rated poorly and other roads that are a concern. Brandon will also be applying for the Community Crossings grant through INDOT in January. He also stated that the department is ready for the winter season and the Extension Office has requested for some trees to be removed.

IN THE MATTER OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented one right-of-way permit to the Commissioners for approval. The request was from Todd Wise Sand & Gravel to install a septic system for the property owners at 6550 W Chamberlain Drive. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request along with having the owner sign a release of liability and hold harmless agreement, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 2/0 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 Schrupf and carried with a 2/0 vote. The claim distributions from October 21, 2019 through November 4, 2019 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 2/0 vote. The minutes from the October 21, 2019 meeting were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table the minutes until the next meeting, seconded by Schrupf and the minutes were tabled with a 2/0 vote.


IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONER'S ASSISTANT: Commissioner's Assistant Jennifer Shinabery had a request on behalf of the HR Director/Coordinator Ed Robbins to purchase Adobe Pro. Preferred IT quoted the price at \$15 per month. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrupf and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Schrupf stated that he will be requesting for the Council to approve a new IT Support Tech that is separate from Preferred IT and this individual will be on-site Monday through Friday. Commissioner Amber made a motion to a favorable pass to Council, seconded by

Schrumpf and carried with a 2/0 vote. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that he received a methane monitoring plan for the landfill to install gas monitoring. He would like to send this to Council for funding. The next project that Commissioner Schrumpf presented was to approve CREDIT funds to purchase two body scanners, one at Work Release and one at the Jail. The cost of the two body scanners is \$278,000. Commissioner Amber made a motion for a favorable pass to Council, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. The total cost to update the Annex for Child Services was \$107,354.00.


There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schrumpf, Chairman

Thomas Western, Vice Chairman


Don Amber, Commissioner

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor