

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 2, 2019

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 2, 2019 at 1:00 pm in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Vice Chairman Thomas Western and Commissioner Don Amber, Chairman George Schrupf was absent. Others in attendance were Attorney Matt Shipman, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Commissioner's Assistant Jennifer Shinabery, Jason Meyer from Passages, Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Gatton, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Theresa Green, County Assessor Kim Erdly, EDC President Jon Myers, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Stanley Crum, Joan Null, Paula Worden from Community Corrections, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Sonya Emerick, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library and Becky Salaway from Whitley County Council on Aging.

Commissioner Western opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Matt Shipman doesn't have anything to bring up, he will have somethings to discuss when Scott goes over ordinances later in the meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PASSAGES UPDATE: Jason Meyer was present to give the annual report for Passages, he started out with giving artwork to the Commissioners, Attorney Shipman, County Auditor Jana Schinbeckler and Commissioners' Assistant Jennifer Shinabery that was made by Passages artists. Jason presented a few dates for the upcoming 2020 year to put on the calendar for Passages events. Jason talked about the 5K that they did this year and how they had a great turn out and are going to be making the 2020 a 10K at the request of some of the attendees. They will have donuts at the end of the race as well. Jason is also the CEO of the Whitley Neighborhood Crossing, he wanted to let the Commissioners know that they have received two grants from Federal Home Loan Bank to be able to update the Clugston as well as build nine new homes in Whitley County where the old hospital was located. 3 of which will be Passages homes and the other six will be low to moderate income housing. They are still trying to get additional funds to be able to complete these projects and hope to start this process by spring of 2021 if not earlier.

IN THE MATTER OF THE RDC DECLARATORY RESOLUTION: Nathan Bilger was present with a proposed resolution for a TIF district for the Larwill area. We are looking for approval from the Commissioners so that it can go on to the Town of Larwill for their review, and then there will be a public hearing on December 23rd 2019. The resolution number would be 2019-15. Attorney Shipman has reviewed this resolution and gives his go ahead with the resolution. Commissioner Amber made a motion with a second by Commissioner Western passing with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PLATS & APPOINTMENT: Nathan Bilger has 2 plats for consideration, both have been approved at the Plan Commission meeting. Papenbrock Farms is a one lot plat, they want to split off acreage around the house to sell to their son and would then build a new home on the property that is getting split off. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve with a second by Western passing with a 2/0 vote. The second plat is Copper Creek on Sheckler Rd. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve with a second by Western passing with a 2/0 vote. There was a 3rd plat that Nathan was going to present but it is not ready yet, the Commissioners want to wait to decide until the December 16th meeting to approve. Nathan has an re-appointment for Churubusco Plan Commission for Ashley Johnson, Commissioner Amber made a motion to re-appoint Ashley Johnson with a second by Western passing with a 2/0 vote. Nathan showed the Commissioners the new 2020 calendar that has been made, the order will be submitted to Shindigz for processing, the Commissioners have decided to keep the order to 25 and all the departments will receive one just like last year.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ORDINANCE REVIEWS: Scott Wagner was present to present a couple ordinances for approval. The first was the food establishment ordinance that hasn't been updated since 2015, there is some wording that is different, and any temporary food establishments have to be less than 14 days after that they would be considered a mobile establishment. There is also a change in the pricing for food vendors, the new pricing will be \$20 for five consecutive days. The farmers market is not included or a part of this ordinance. The ordinance will be 2019-12 Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve with a second by Western passing with a 2/0 vote. The next ordinance is the Point of Sale ordinance which deals with homes in the County being sold with septic systems that are non-existing or failing. There are only 2 other Counties that are doing this, this is a very intricate/complex process, it would require that an inspection be done to the well and septic before sale of the home. There have been cases where sellers are not upfront about the condition of the septic or well and there have been lawsuits and issues. The Commissioners want other entities to get involved, banks and realtors to get input. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table this until further discussion has been completed, a second to table by Commissioner Western. Tabling with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE UPDATED TRAVEL POLICY: County Auditor Jana Schinbeckler has been working with Commissioners to update our County travel/conference policy as we have been receiving a lot of out of state claims to be paid. With this new policy all conferences would need pre-approval from the Commissioners. Ed the Human Resources Director is working on updating the Policy as well. Commissioner Western would like to table this until next meeting when Commissioner Schrupf will be present, with a second by Amber passing to table with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE VOUCHER APPROVAL & TITLE PAPERWORK: Becky Salaway was present to get signatures for vehicle purchase approvals for 2020. They will be purchasing 2 new vehicles to replace 2 that will be ready to retire at that time. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve and allow Commissioner Western to sign, Western seconded passing with a 2/0 vote. Becky then told Commissioners that their newest transit vehicle was involved in an accident and has been totaled. There were only 400 +/- miles on the vehicle but where it was hit they are unable to fix and the insurance company has decided to total that vehicle. Becky is asking for approval to purchase a new transit vehicle with the insurance check once we receive it. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the vehicle purchase with the insurance funds, seconded by Western passing with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester updated on projects that are getting completed for end of year and what he is having to do to complete end of year paperwork. Brandon presented the 2020 annual bids notice to bidders, there were a few changes that were made on supplier requirements. Brandon is requesting Commissioners and Auditor sign so that he can get it published. With bid opening January 6th 2020, then reviewing and can make decisions at the second meeting in January. Amber made a motion to approve the notice to bidders with a second by Western passing with a 2/0 vote. Brandon has an updated ordinance for the fuel purchase policy, this ordinance will be 2019-14 and he is asking for approval of the updated fuel ordinance. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve with a second by Western passing with a 2/0 vote. There is also a re-appointment for Michael Schrader for the drainage board. Commissioner Amber made a motion to re-appoint Schrader to the drainage board with a second by Western passing with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT OF WAY PERMITS: Right of way requests, Precision Utility Group at 3910 W 750 N, Century Link at 6479 S. 475 W to remove the pedestal at that location, and lastly BSM Groups Inc. 2305 E Cardinal Dr. Commissioner made motion for all permits with a second by Western, all passing with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL CAR FUNDS: Sheriff Gatton is present to ask for a favorable pass to Council for additional funds for the purchase of 3 new cars. Gatton is asking to increase the amount from \$75,000 back to what it used to be when Sheriff Hodges was in office which was \$90,000. Commissioner Amber made a motion for a favorable pass to Council with a second by Western passing with a 2/0 vote. Sheriff Gatton is asking for favorable pass for his salary which includes the \$1,200 cost of living increase as well as the 6.29 % which was the average employee increase. Commissioner Amber made a motion to a favorable pass for the Sheriffs salary to include the cost of living increase as well as the 6.29 %. Seconded by Commissioner Western passing with a 2/0 vote.

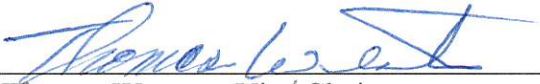
IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Jennifer Shinabery Commissioners' Assistant was present to request the use of the courthouse square for Old Settlers dates June 23, 2020- June 27, 2020. Amber made a motion to approve with a second by Western passing with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: After reviewing the payroll claims, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Western and carried with a 2/0 vote. The claim distributions from November 18, 2019 through December 2, 2019 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Western and carried with a 2/0 vote. The minutes from the November 18, 2019 meeting were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Western and passed with a 2/0. County Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented additional appropriations that the Commissioners are going to be brought to the Council on Tuesday December 3, 2019. Commissioner Amber made a motion for a favorable pass to the council with a second by Western passing with a 2/0 vote. Jana also presented an ordinance 2019-15 for Indiana State Opioid response fund. The grant was for \$60,000 and Commissioners just need to approve to be able to establish the fund. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve, with a second by Western passing with a 2/0 vote. An employee of the census is asking to put signs in the Court House square showing that they are hiring and in need of census employees. Commissioner Amber made a motion to allow the signs be put in the yard for as long as needed, with a second by Western passing with a 2/0 vote.

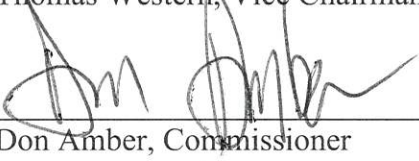
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Commissioner Western adjourned the meeting at 2:30 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

George Schrupf, Chairman



Thomas Western, Vice Chairman



Don Amber, Commissioner

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

