

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 1, 2023

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 1, 2023, at 1:00 PM in the Commissioner's Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chair Chad Banks, Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger and Commissioner Robert Schuman. Others in attendance were Attorney Matthew Shipman, Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Highway Director Katy Fry, County Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Health Director Scott Wagner, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Sheriff Jason Spencer, Todd Cook & Carla Horn from the Sheriffs Department, Terri & Brandt Mowery, Henry Janda, Ginny & Mike Rowland, Joan Null, Cindy Zollinger, Dale Buuck with the EDC, Teresa Hall, Douglas & Debra Hosler, Mark Mowery, Dennis & Marcia Krider, Dave Trimmer, Emylee Osos, Don Osos, Gregg Wilkinson, Sharon Jimmons, Lauren Wall, Donna Herald, Jason Dafforn, Zach Sand, Councilman Thomas Warner, and Sonya Emerick.

Chair Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** Commissioners recognized employees with more than 20 years of service. Jeanette Hearld with 32, John Barrett with 26, Carla Horn with 20, Michael Rumsyre & Scott Schmitt with 23, Tyson Howenstine with 25, Jason Spencer with 24, Toban McCoy with 24, Gregg Wilkinson, Cindy Doolittle & Jeremy Hinen with 27 and Michael Christie with 36.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT:** Attorney Shipman stated that he only had items that were on the agenda, and he feels they are appropriate.

**SOLAR CODE CORRECTION ORDINANCE:** Planning Director Nathan Bilger was present to explain to Commissioners that since the Planning Commission had given a favorable recommendation to the Commissioners that they should take action on the amendment, or the Ordinance will automatically be adopted. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to deny the request, seconded by Baysinger and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**UNOFFICIAL DETOUR & COMMUNITY CROSSINGS AGREEMENT:** Highway Director Katy Fry presented an unofficial detour for INDOT. Commissioners had reviewed the detour and see no problems. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schuman and carried with a 3/0 vote. Katy also had the yearly agreement for the Community Crossings matching grant agreement. This document is a digital signature. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the agreement and allow for Chair Banks to DocuSign, seconded by Schuman and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**AMENDED AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN:** Commissioners have reviewed and agreed on an updated ARP Plan. Zach Sand from Sands Strategies was present to introduce himself and explained what he would be doing for the County as a consultant. He was able to secure over \$25 million dollars for Allen County to aid in their need for broadband and wants to do the same for Whitley County. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the updated ARP Plan, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioners also reviewed the contract for Sand Strategies. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the contract contingent with Council approving the request at the May 2, 2023, Council meeting. Seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**FACILITIES REQUESTS:** Commissioner Baysinger stated that the Columbia City Fire Department would like to use the Courthouse square in August for fire awareness and to do some demonstrations. However, Theresa did reach out and has not heard back from the Fire Chief Tom LaRue to get a few questions answered. Baysinger made a motion to table the request until Tom can come in and provide answers to the Commissioners, seconded by Schuman and passed to be tabled with a 3/0 vote.

**MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The claim distributions from April 18, 2023, through May 1, 2023, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Schuman stated he reviewed the claims and saw no issues. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the regular meeting minutes from April 17, 2023, Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**


- Constituents Doug Hosler, Brandt Mowery and Ginny Rowland spoke on behalf of the Citizens Against Solar and had a few questions for the Commissioners.
- Commissioner Schuman wanted to make the public aware that May 4<sup>th</sup> is the National Day of Prayer and he encouraged those that possess the same beliefs to participate.

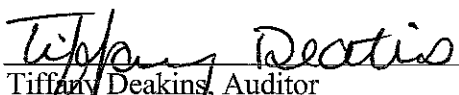
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:23 PM.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Chair Chad Banks

  
Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger

  
Commissioner Robert Schuman

Attest:   
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor