

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 6, 2023

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, November 6, 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 County Attorney Zack Zehner, Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Human Resources Director Jennifer Shinabery, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Assessor Kim Erdly, Russell Gilliam & Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Highway Director Ryan Getts, Engineer Brad Allen, Maintenance Supervisor Kyle Peppler, Jason Spencer and Todd Cook from the Sheriff's Department, Coroner Scott Smith, Abbey Anthony from the EDC, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Probation Officer Amy Motter, and Nadean Lamle.

Chair Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION & PROCLAMATION:** The Commissioners recognized employees with over 20 years of service. Amy Motter has 30 years of service; Randy Dellinger has 35 years of service, and Nadean Lamle has 38 years of service starting in December of 1985. Commissioners read a proclamation honoring Dr. Russell Gilliam. Russell has 27 years of service working with the Health Department and serving on the Health Board.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE THOMAS MARSHALL BID ACCEPTANCE:** The Commissioners and Maintenance reviewed the two bids for the restoration of the Thomas R Marshall home. Upon reviewing the bids Commissioners and Maintenance chose to accept the bid from the Dahm Brothers, Inc. for \$46,500 and reject the other bid as it came in above what was expected. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the \$46,500 bid and reject the \$418,630 bids from E Lee Construction, seconded by Schuman a passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER THE SOLID WASTE JOINT BOARD APPOINTMENT:** Commissioner Baysinger stated that she spoke to Jon Myers and feels that he would be a great fit to serve on this joint board and agrees to serve. Baysinger made a motion to appoint Jon Myers to the Solid Waste Joint Board, seconded by Schuman and passed to table with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF PLAT APPROVAL:** Nathan Bilger was present with a 1 lot plat for approval called Rogers Market Subdivision, located 100 South just East of Sail Rite. The Plan Commission has approved the request at their September meeting. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the plat as presented, seconded by Schuman, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS MEETING DATES:** Community Corrections Director Paula Worden is seeking approval for the 2024 meeting dates for the Community Corrections Advisory Board and the Executive Committee. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the dates as presented, seconded by Schuman, and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF HEALTH BOARD RE-APPOINTMENT:** Health Director Scott Wagner was present to let Commissioners know that the Septic Ordinance was not yet ready for their approval. Scott would like to have Michael Mawhorter re-appointed to the Health Board to serve from 12/1/2024 until 12/31/2028. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the re-appointment, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF AT&T AGREEMENT:** Commissioner Banks stated that the Commissioners would like to move forward with utilizing AT&T First Net for the County. Sheriff Jason spoke to let Commissioners and constituents know about the services and priority that will be provided with this switch. Attorneys have reviewed this agreement. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, seconded by Schuman, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF 2024 COMMISSIONER MEETING SCHEDULE:** Commissioner Banks stated that the Commissioners would like to move forward with changing meeting times to 4:00 pm rather than 1:00 pm. Commissioners would like to start the new meeting time for the January 2, 2024, meeting. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the meeting dates as presented with changing the time from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, seconded by Baysinger, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF A FACILITY REQUESTS:** Banks presented two facility requests for Commissioner approval. The first request was tabled at the last two meetings when there was a question about the Courthouse restrooms being open to the public during Old Settlers. After Commissioners were able to see the area in question, they felt it was appropriate to sign. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to table the request,

seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request is for the Veteran Marathon to be able to use the Courthouse square for a tent that will house soups and chili's. This is an annual event and a great Community grassroots. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote.

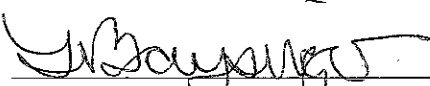
**IN THE MATTER OF CELL PHONE STIPEND REQUEST:** Chief Probation Officer Ed Beber is seeking Commissioner approval to allow for his Field Officer to receive a cell-phone stipend. Commissioners agree that this position should receive the stipend. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Baysinger and carried unanimously with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The claim distributions from October 17, 2023, through November 6, 2023, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Baysinger reviewed the claims and had nothing that stood out to her. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the regular meeting minutes from October 16, 2023, Schuman made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Baysinger and carried with a 3/0 vote.

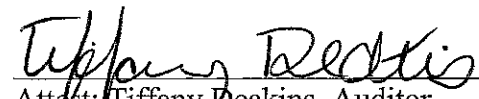
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:26 PM.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Chair Chad Banks

  
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Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger

  
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Commissioner Robert Schuman

  
Attest: Tiffany Deakins, Auditor