

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 2, 2024

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 4:00 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 Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Human Resources Director Jennifer Shinabery, County Highway Director Ryan Getts, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Engineer Brad Allen, Sheriff Jason Spencer, Clerk Cindy Doolittle, and Brant Benson.

Chair Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Commissioner Banks opened the floor for a motion to nominate someone as Chair of the Commissioners. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to nominate Commissioner Banks as Chair, seconded by Schuman and passed unanimously. Commissioner Baysinger nominated Commissioner Schuman for Vice Chair, a second by Banks, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

2024 BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS: Commissioner Banks listed off the Commissioner's assignments starting with Schuman being on the Board of Finance, Drainage Board, Solid Waste Board, and Joint Advisory. Chad Banks will be assigned to the Board of Finance, EMS Committee, Plan Commission, Solid Waste Board, EMA Board, and Historical Committee. Commissioner Baysinger has been assigned to the Board of Finance, Region 3A, Redevelopment Commission, Community Corrections Board, Solid Waste and the Economic Development Corporation Investment Board. Banks stated they have some annual appointments such as Redevelopment that will need to be done as well.

LIMESTONE BID NOTICE: Highway Director Ryan Getts was present to suggest we accept the bids that were received for the Highway as well as to request we open bids for limestone. When the bid notice was sent via email to all the different suppliers, the limestone suppliers mistakenly left off the email. After Getts spoke with the Commissioners and the County Attorney it was decided they would like to reopen the bids just to the limestone suppliers. Baysinger motioned to allow the Highway Director to put out a bid notice for limestone and for Commissioner Banks to sign, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. Baysinger motioned to accept all the bids that were received on the 18th, seconded by Schuman. Commissioner Banks asked Zach with the county attorney's office if he should abstain due to being employed by one of the providers with a bid. Zach agreed that he should. The vote passed 2/0 with Banks abstaining.

PLAT APPROVAL: Planning Director Nathan Bilger was present with a 3-lot plat called Behm estates located off 102 and Linker Rd. There is no need for rezoning and the plat was

approved at the Plan Commission Meeting in September. Commissioner Baysinger motioned to approve the plat as presented, seconded by Schuman, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

ZONING CODE AMENDMENT: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented an ordinance to amend the current zoning code ordinance. Bilger gave some examples of the changes that were made. Commissioner Baysinger stated she hasn't had a chance to look over all the changes and would like to go over them and discuss them at the next Commissioner meeting. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to table the zoning amendment, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from December 19, 2023, through January 2, 2024 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Baysinger stated she 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 Baysinger made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed minutes from the December 18, 2023, bid opening and the December 18, 2023, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, with a second by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote.

OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Banks announced that the Commissioners received an annual report from the Bowen Center. Banks stated that they are in the process of possibly changing the community mental health provider to expand options in the community.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Zach from the county attorney's office stated that they are working on the electronic notice policy to allow us to use the county website as a secondary source to advertise on. They are also working on a small purchase policy and would like to see that accomplished this year.

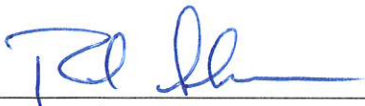
OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Baysinger gave a quick update, stating they have 3 providers that have put in for grants to bring better internet to Whitley County and that today is last day to do the internet testing. The broadband consultant that the committee has been working with will be attending soon to give an update and presentation on what they have been working on.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 4:24 PM.

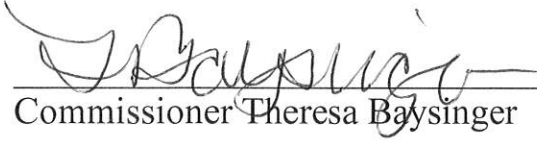
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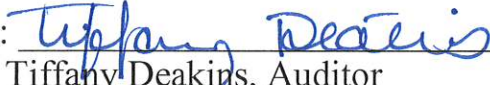
Chair Chad Banks



Vice Chair Robert Schuman



Commissioner Theresa Baysinger

Attest: 
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor

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