

## WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

February 6, 2023

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chair James Argerbright, Vice Chair Thomas Warner, Kim Wheeler, Thor Hodges, Nicholas Brewer, Joan Western, and John Barrett. Others in attendance were Commissioners Schuman and Baysinger, Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, HR Director Jennifer Shinabery, Commissioners' Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Assessor Kim Erdly, Tim Summers from the Maintenance Department, Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Highway Director Ryan Getts, Sheriff Jason Spencer, Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Jessica Hockemeyer, Zack Sands, Ryan Adamson, Chris Todd from NREMC, Justin Carpenter, Jeremy Burton and Dale Buuck.

Chairman Argerbright called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**NEXT LEVEL CONNECTIONS GRANT:** Zack Sand with Sand Strategies was present with members of the Broadband Committee as well as a few internet providers to give Council an update with the Next Level Connects Grant. Sands has been working with the Broadband Committee to try and get internet to rural areas of Whitley County and more county residents. A representative from Comcast spoke to Council about plans that they have for Whitey County. Zack Sand wanted the Council to sign a letter of support so that it could be included with the grant applications when providers apply. Barrett made a motion to approve the request as presented, seconded by Brewer, and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT INSURANCE CHECK:** Highway Director Ryan Getts was present to ask that an insurance check be put into his line item to pay our vendor for damages from an accident to a bridge. Councilman Hodges made a motion to appropriate the funds so the Highway Department can pay R.L. McCoy for the work done to the bridge. Seconded by Brewer and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**GOVERNMENT CENTER COMPRESSOR:** Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant was present to discuss the additional quotes the Council had requested at the January Council meeting to replace compressor #1 at the Government Center. Sturtevant received three quotes \$17,311, \$21,120, and \$23,793.40. Mark would like to move forward with the \$17,311 quote along with the 5-year warranty for an additional \$1,247. Mark asked Council what fund they would like him to pay this from. Wheeler made a motion to pay for the repairs and the warranty from Cum Cap, seconded by Hodges and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**RESOLUTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC NOTICES:** Auditor Deakins explained to Council that if the Council would pass a resolution to allow for electronic notices that she could save the County money on notices. This would be for the 2<sup>nd</sup> notice to be from the website versus from another newspaper advertisement. The Commissioners have already passed the same resolution along with the Redevelopment Commission. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-04, seconded by Western and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**SOLID WASTE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT:** The Council needs to approve Resolution 2024-05 that allows for the Council to sign the interlocal agreement. Council members had discussions on why they needed to sign the agreement and stated that they would like to get quarterly updates from the board representative. Brewer made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-05, seconded by Barrett, and passed unanimously with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS:** Cindy Doolittle and Jessica Hockemeyer were present to get Council approval to move forward with purchasing iPad's for Elections. The County will be receiving a reimbursement grant in the amount of \$22,160 for the purchase. Once purchased the reimbursement would be received within 35 days. Warner made a motion to allow Cindy to move forward with the purchase, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The Council reviewed the January 3, 2024, regular meeting minutes, Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.


### **IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

- Commissioner Baysinger had Treasurer Kay Gatton tell the Council about her great job with her earning on interest for 2023. Kay had a record year for the County and made 1.3 million dollars in interest, the year prior was under \$200,000 total.
- The new jail roof deck has been removed and replaced. The jail should be completely built by fall of 2024.

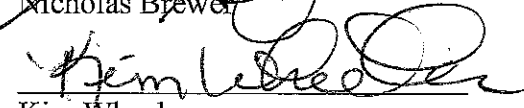
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Argerbright adjourned the meeting at 9:00 AM.

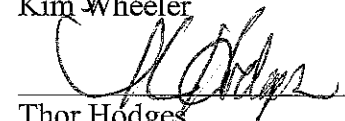
**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**


  
Chair James Argerbright

  
Vice Chair Thomas Warner

  
Nicholas Brewer


  
Kim Wheeler

  
Thor Hodges

  
John Barrett

  
Joan Western

Attest:

  
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor