

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 20, 2024

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, February 20, 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 Rob Schuman with Commissioner Theresa Baysinger absent. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Human Resources Director Jennifer Shinabery, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Kelsey Adams, Karry Babb, Victoria Plemons, Amber Nichols, Tess Ottenweller, Jackie Tiahuctl, John McFadden, Mista Lauber, and Rob Ryan all from the Bowen Center.

Chairman Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOWEN CENTER ANNUAL REPORT: Dr. Rob Ryan, Tess Ottenweller and Mista Lauber gave Commissioners the annual update from the Bowen Center. Dr. Rob Ryan also wanted to make sure that communication between the County and Bowen Center get better moving forward. Below are some highlights from the annual report.

- The three Whitley County Board Members are Jim Fleck, Deb Brice, and Eric Helfrich.
- \$78,755.60 was used for free assistance and charity care in Whitley County for 2023.
- The new local facility is now open.
- Bowen will be partnering with the jail and the JCAP program.
- Churubusco schools have partnered with Bowen to bring awareness to suicide prevention.
- For 2024 Bowen hopes to get a Mobile Crisis Response Unit up and running, this unit will be a 24/7 two-person team. This is in process, but final steps are needed.

EASEMENT APPROVAL: Chip Hill from the City sent over the correct Deed of Easement for Commissioners and Attorney Boxberger to review after the last meeting. This is for a pathway to connect the High School and City sidewalks. Banks stated that he has liability concerns if a fence and/or trees are added, but that can be discussed at a later date. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Banks, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

FACILITIES REQUESTS: Commissioners had three facilities requests to review.

1. Billy Grant is asking to use the gazebo for the National Day of Prayer on May 2, 2024 from 7-7:30 am and 7-7:30 pm. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Banks and passed with a 2/0 vote.
2. Columbia City Connect would like to use the Courthouse lawn and surrounding area for 2024 First Friday's events. These would include dates from May to October First Fridays

in the month from approximately 4:30-10p. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Banks and passed with a 2/0 vote.

3. St. Paul of the Cross would like to use Chauncey to Elsworth Street for Palm Sunday. On March 24th from 10:15-11 am. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Banks and passed with a 2/0 vote.


OTHER BUSINESS: Banks stated that there was another item added to the agenda. A Certificate of Compliance for the bond from the Government Center that needs to be signed yearly. He is happy to say that the last bond payment was made at the beginning of 2024 for the Government Center Bond. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Banks and passed with a 2/0 vote.


MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from February 6, 2024, through February 20, 2024, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the account payable claims, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 2/0 vote. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 2/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the regular meeting minutes from February 5, 2024. Schuman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Banks, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

Auditor Deakins had one more item for Commissioners and attorney review. BakerTilly sent a scope of work for the bond issued for the new jail. BakerTilly completes the reports that need to be completed for EMMA reporting on behalf of the County. Zach from Carson LLP reviewed and stated that it looks good. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Banks and passed with a 2/0 vote.

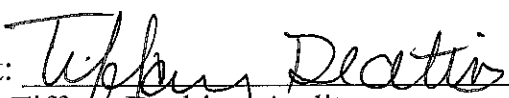
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 4:36 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chair Chad Banks


Vice Chair Robert Schuman

Commissioner Theresa Baysinger

Attest: 
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor