

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 6, 2024

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 6, 2024, 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 Rob Schuman, and Commissioner Theresa Baysinger. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Sheriff Jason Spencer, Todd Cook & Janelle Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department, Jennifer Christie and Ed Beber from the Whitley County Probation, Brent Bockelman, Julie Jensen-Kelley from Community Corrections, Highway Director Ryan Getts, Leslie Blakley, Matt Peterson, Sonya Emerick, Rusty Hoult, and Sandra Flu from INDOT.

Chairman Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: Commissioners recognized Jason Spencer with 25 years of service.

PROPEL US 30 UPDATE: Rusty Hoult was present to give Commissioners an update on the ProPEL US 30 project. If you would like to see a copy of the reports, please visit www.propelus30.com. You can find the reports under 30 EAST.

COUNCIL ON AGING GRANT AGREEMENT & 1st QUARTER VOUCHER: Leslie Blakley was present from the Whitley County Council on Aging to request the Commissioners sign the grant agreement documents for operating and capital expenses for budget year 2025. Attorney Boxberger has reviewed the documents and stated they were good to be approved and signed off on by Commissioners.

- The first quarter voucher was submitted to Commissioners for approval by Leslie Blakley. The amount of the voucher is \$155,439. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.
- Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-08 as presented, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.
- Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the Local Financial Assurances agreement, with a second by Baysinger, carrying with a 3/0 vote.
- Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the Certification of Use of Capital Equipment, with a second by Baysinger, carrying with a 3/0 vote.
- Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the Special Labor Warranty, with a second by Baysinger, carrying with a 3/0 vote.
- Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the Passthrough Agreement, with a second by Baysinger, carrying with a 3/0 vote.
- Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the Capital Project Categorical Exclusion, with a second by Baysinger, carrying with a 3/0 vote.

- Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the Federal Transportation Usage Certifications and Assurances Agreement, with a second by Baysinger, carrying with a 3/0 vote.

PLAT APPROVALS & REZONING REQUEST: Brent Bockelman from Planning and Building was present with 2 plats for approval and a rezoning request.

1. Grayson Acres is a 2-lot plat that has been approved by the Plan Commission. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Schuman, and passed with a 3/0 vote.
2. Tracey Acres is a 2-lot plat that has been approved by the Plan Commission. Baysinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Schuman, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

The rezoning request is for Lucas Wright off 500 East, going from AG to AGP. This was given a favorable pass to Commissioners. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-07, waiving the second reading, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote.

CORPORATE CHALLENGE: Julie Jensen-Kelley from Community Corrections was present to request funding from Commissioners to pay the YMCA \$500 for the Whitley County Government to participate in the corporate challenge as we have in previous years. Baysinger made a motion to approve the request to fund the Whitley County Corporate Challenge, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REQUESTS: Highway Director Ryan Getts was present with 3 requests.

- ROW Permit for NIPSCO to do an open cut near 6699 McGuire Road for gas service. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger, and passed with a 3/0 vote.
- Community Crossings Bid Advertisement Notice – Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote.
- Getts would like to move forward with cleaning the gas and diesel tanks at the Highway Department as he does not believe that they have ever been cleaned. He has obtained 3 quotes, however only one is willing to do a man entry cleaning. Optum will clean both tanks and bring a holding tank for the fuel while the cleaning is being processed to not hold up any day-to-day business. Commissioners would like to see this \$13,025 be paid from the 4902 Fuel Fund, contracted services account. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Schuman, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

NON-COUNTY OWNED THERAPY DOG: Jennifer Christie from the Probation Department was present to seek Commissioner approval to allow her dog to be an as needed therapy dog while Journey is not available. He has been through all the trainings and is covered by her own insurance as well as she covers all expenses. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the MOU between the Commissioners and Jennifer Christie that has been reviewed by Boxberger, seconded by Baysinger, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

DISPATCH CENTER INFRASTRUCTURE: Sheriff Jason Spencer stated that the Commissioners need to sign the agreement for ERS which is the antenna system for the new jail. This will need to be presented to the Council for appropriations to be paid by ARPA funds. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the agreement and to be paid from ARPA, seconded by Baysinger, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

FACILITIES REQUESTS: Commissioners have had Attorney Boxberger review the current facility request form and he stated that the form should be updated to change “bound by terms and conditions of the form”. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the updated form, seconded by Schuman, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from April 16, 2024, through May 6, 2024, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the account payable claims, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the regular meeting minutes from April 15, 2024. Schuman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Banks, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioners also reviewed the Special meeting minutes from April 22, 2024, for a ROW permit. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Banks, and passed with a 2/0 vote with Baysinger abstaining.

Commissioner Baysinger wanted to remind everyone to get out and vote tomorrow May 7th, 2024.

There being no further business and no comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM.

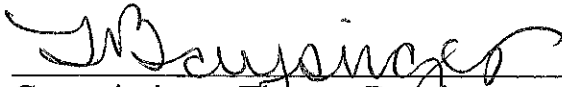
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Chair Chad Banks

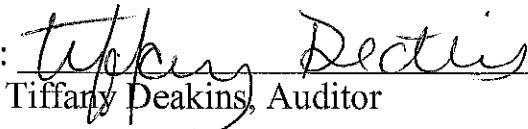


Vice Chair Robert Schuman



Commissioner Theresa Baysinger

Attest:


Tiffany Deakins, Auditor