

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 16, 2014

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, June 16, 2014 at 1:00pm in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman George Schrumpf, Don Amber and Tom Rethlake. Others in attendance County Attorney- Dan Sigler, Auditor Jennifer McGuire, Pam Smith- County Coordinator, Brandon Forrester- County Engineer, Michael Barton- Highway, Mary Hartman-Peabody Library, Adam Hurley & Ted Hurley – J & K Communications, Kathy Shively, Scott Jones, Chad Burch & Patton Cox – AGA, Gene Heckman, Katie Wagner- Churubusco News, Joan Null and Stanley Crum.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the pledge.

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Two Request for Proposals regarding the Dispatch Radio Consoles, Simulcast Radio Transmitters and Radios for the Sheriff's department were received. The first one was from ERS Wireless Communications stating that they wish to NO BID the project due to the specification requirements. The second RFP is from J & K Communications with the overall project broken down into two overall costs and a combination of both. J & K also submitted options with Lease Payments for the County. After discussion, a motion by Rethlake to submit the RFP to Whitley County Dispatch to be reviewed for specifications and guidance, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. After reviewing the RFP the Department will get back with the Commissioners. Funding options for this cost will be reviewed during the 2015 Budget preparation by County Council.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY: County Attorney, Dan Sigler, updated the Commissioners on recent termination compliant with the EEOC. Travelers is reviewing the complaint and attorney fees will be collected if necessary after 3-6 months. At this time it is only allegations made towards the County and depositions may need to be taken. Sigler has reviewed the current Rental Agreement for Pitney Bowes for the Postage meters in both the Courthouse and the Government Center. Auditor McGuire & Clerk Debbie Beers want the Agreement to coincide with their elected terms and not have to be reviewed every two years. After discussion of the cost savings and equipment, a motion by Rethlake to allow the Rental Agreement, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote of approval for signature. No refund yet from Cedar Bridge, Attorney Sigler will work with Amy Motter from Probation to continue legal action for reimbursement of the \$10,000 for juvenile detention services.

IN THE MATTER OF ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT: Brandon Forrester, County Engineer, presented a copy of a letter to I.O.S., LLC in Park 30 for using the County Road Right-of Way without permission. The letter request I.O.S. to apply for a permit and submit details of the project within 14 days to be processed and approved. Forrester submitted a request for an additional appropriation for later in the year because of the retirement of an employee. He wants to cross train for the position for up to four weeks and will have a payout of the appropriation for Sick and Vacation. After discussion Rethlake gave a "Favorable" recommendation for the County Council to approve the Additional funding, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote to proceed with the new employee, advertise for the position and interview.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE: Chad Burch and Patton Cox from AGA reviewed the upcoming changes for the Whitley County Health Insurance policy. The main changes are all requirements implemented by the Affordable Car Act requirements for self-insured plans. Discussion included raising the limit to an unlimited maximum, waiting periods for coverage, dependent children up to the age of 26, co-pays and wellness benefits. The overall increase for the County will be 6.794% if the coverage stays with AGA. The other new cost for the County will be a tax implemented per individuals on the plan. For 2014 the cost is \$1.00 per individual covered and in 2015 the cost will be \$2.00 per individual on the plan, also a tax will be \$63.00 per person to increase the plan cost with required taxes. Patton went through an overview of the previous year's plans, cost by claims, prescriptions drugs, and trends compared to previous years and other plans. After discussion a motion by Amber to accept the AGA plan for next year, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Further discussion of premium increases will be discussed with the 2015 budgets for funding.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY HIGHWAY: Michael Barton, Highway Supervisor, reported back to the County Commissioners the findings from the Speed Study done at County Road 700. The average speed was 31 mph for the location. These findings have been passed on to the Loon Lake Association. At this time no STOP signs will be installed and no further action will be taken. Barton would like to purchase "Speed Boards" to be used throughout the County and moved around to different locations when a complaint comes in. The cost is estimated at \$2500 for the equipment and the Highway has it in their budget if approved. The Commissioners would like to see a study on whether vandalism is done when equipment is being used by others and quarterly reports of where the unit is being used throughout the County.

IN THE MATTER WOOD LANDS & LAKES: Stanley Crum, appointment from the Commissioners for the Wood Lands and Lakes Conservation, highlighted the RC & D Council meeting from May 29, 2014. The topics covered were the Investment Committee, stewardship network cluster, Northern IN Cooperative for Invasive plants, Round Barn and Land Committee.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Minutes from the June 2, 2014 Commissioner's meeting were reviewed. Amber made a motion to approve as presented with the date at the top of Minutes changed to June 2, 2014, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. The disbursement of claim reports for June 16, 2014 was reviewed by Commissioner Schrumpf. After discussion on some of the claims, a motion to allow the claims was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC UTILITY PERMIT: A public utility permit from CenturyLink was presented for cable to be placed at Hartman Road for a distance of 752 feet. After discussion of the location, a motion to approve the permit was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR: Pam Smith submitted a "Request to Use County Facility" from the County Activities Committee for Friday July 25 from 11-1pm for a cookout on the courthouse lawn and gazebo. A motion by Amber to allow the use, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. The next Request is from the Main Street Association for Saturday October 11, 2014 from 8-12pm for their annual Fall Festival. A motion by Amber to allow the use, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. A request for Short Term Disability was presented for a County employee currently on Maternity Leave. After discussion of use of all available sick, personal and vacation time, the request is for 10 actual days at \$50 per day for a total cost of \$500. A motion to allow the expenditure was made by Rethlake, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF CAMP SAMARITAN PROPERTY: Commissioner Schrumpf requested the use of some CREDIT funding to clean up the Camp Samaritan property and trails. This would require that the building be torn down for liability purposes. The Tri-Lakes Property Owners Association wants to help with the process and take over the maintenance of the property. Gene Heckman from the Thorncreek Township will help with destroying the building and doing a controlled burn with the fire department. Until the County gets a good answer from the DNR for the use of the property everyone is hesitate to move forward with any large projects or cost. Chairman Schrumpf will contact the TLPOA.

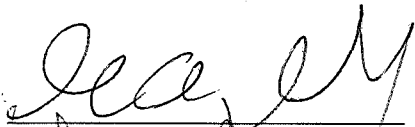
IN THE MATTER OF BATTERY BACK-UP: An estimate to replace the UPS at the Jail for the phone system, recorders and voicemail system in the amount of \$1436.50. The original unit was installed in March of 2010 and has failed and needs replaced as soon as possible. After discussion of there being some preventative maintenance to be done for the future, a motion to approve the expense was made by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote to pay out of Cumulative Capital for already appropriated Equipment Maintenance.

IN THE MATTER OF WEIGHT AND MEASURES: Scott Wagner, from the Health Department, submitted his Weight and Measures Monthly report for the Commissioners to review. They discussed the non-compliance of some of the fuel stations when checked. Also discussed were the training requirements for the timing devices and allowing Wagner to attend certification he needs for the use of the equipment.

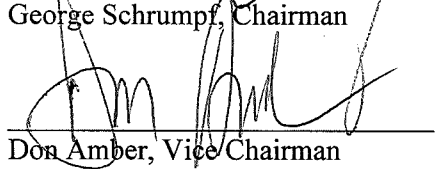
IN OTHER BUSINESS: The May 2014 Vehicle Report was submitted from Sheriff Hodges. Auditor McGuire reported that the reimbursement for the VA Certification and computer software has been received to reimburse County General \$1537.00. Also the claim check for the Government Center sump pump was received in the amount of \$5693.61 to reimburse the Cumulative Capital Fund. The Commissioners will review all Funds for the 2015 Budget appropriations for the July meetings. Commissioner Rethlake congratulated Commissioner Amber on the recent Parade Marshall for him and Patty in the annual Turtle Day's Parade. Discussion regarding the letters opposing the new zoning for a Truck Stop at US 30 and 800 will be directed to the Planning and Zoning committee for the comprehensive plan of Whitley County. Auditor McGuire is still working with the State for FEMA reimbursement for the Winter Storms.

With no further input from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting.

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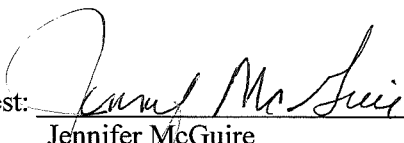
George Schrumpf, Chairman



Don Amber, Vice Chairman



Tom Rethlake

Attest: 

Jennifer McGuire
Auditor

