

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

September 3, 2014

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on September 3, 2014 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Vice Chairman Kim Wheeler, Jim Bayman, John Barrett, Glen LaRue, Bill Overdeer, and Paula Reimers. Absent was Chairman Tom Western. Also in attendance were Commissioner George Schrupf, Finance Deputy Jana Schinbeckler, Kelley Sheiss, Lisa Hatcher, Rita Sauders, Jim Argerbright, Kathy Heuer, Dave Ober, Brandin Heuer, Lori Heuer, Mike Overdeer, Barb Overdeer, Brent Bockelman, Betty Ness, Jim Nelson, and Mary Hartman.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR WHITLEY COUNTY & WHITLEY COUNTY SOLID WASTE 2015 BUDGET: There were not any questions or comments at this time from the public or the Council.

IN THE MATTER OF BUDGET DISCUSSION FOR RITA SAUDERS & DR. HATCHER: Rita Sauders, the County Assessor, was asked to discuss our reassessment procedures. The cyclical reassessment is every year and began on July 1st for 2015 pay 2016. The State has mandated that a quarter of the County every year needs to be reassessed. The Assessor's Office has a yearlong contract with Accurate Assessments for \$139,500 per year. Rita stated that she pays wages out of the Reassessment fund, any advertising that the office has, and Accurate Assessments. She also has the option to pay for updating the soil maps, plat maps, or pictometry out of the Reassessment fund. Dr. Hatcher discussed that the Preparedness grant may allow the Health department to pay a small portion of some salaries directly from this grant. She also spoke to Charlie Heflin, the EMA director and they will be working together with him on the Preparedness grant.

IN THE MATTER OF NON-BINDING REVIEWS: The Council members reviewed and discussed the non-binding reviews. There were no recommendations made. A motion was made by Overdeer to approve them with Council member Jim Bayman seconding the motion and it passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF KELLEY SHEISS WITH EDC AGRIBUSINESS: Kelly Sheiss representing Agribusiness wanted to inform the Commissioners and the public about the program. She wanted to share their mission and vision for Whitley County. Agribusiness was formed to promote education, advancement, innovation, and opportunity in agriculture. They want to encourage growth and bring brand recognition to the businesses in Whitley County.

IN THE MATTER OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM MAXIMUS: They provide Title IV-D reimbursements for the County specifically through the Auditor's office annually. There was an Ordinance in 2013 that created the fund 8896 which is called the Court Incentive Fund. The monthly reimbursements were to be receipted into 8896 and then wages for Court employees were to be paid partially out of this fund. The monthly reimbursements never went into 8896 due to the remittance notices and the original Ordinance being incorrect. They recommended a transfer of \$58,000 from the General fund into 8896 to restore it to the amount it should be. They suggested an Ordinance to reestablish funding to 8896 with a different name so it is not considered incentive money, it is actually considered Court Reimbursement fund. Council member Jim Bayman made a motion to table the decision until Attorney Sigler could look over the Ordinance to create the fund and Council member Overdeer seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor for a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The Minutes from the August 5, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Council member Reimers noted that there was not a space between Kim Wheeler's **name** under the beginning statement. Council member Reimers also reported a grammar error under the matter of other business. The apostrophe in Council's attention is backwards and needed to be facing the correct direction. Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the minutes with minor changes. Overdeer seconded the motion and it passed with a 5/1 vote with Council member LaRue abstaining.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Chairman Schrumpf gave a report from the Commissioners meeting:


- In regard to the lift for record management, Commissioner Schrumpf spoke to the Records office about using their additional funding to help purchase the lift and they stated it was not proper to use the money in the fund for this situation. Commissioner Schrumpf then spoke to the Assessor's office and they declined to offer the funding for the lift as well. He stated the Prosecutor would be the last option and would check with him. They have two options as to how they want to purchase the lift which would be demos that have been used or new. Council member Reimers made a motion to table this until they receive the price of the demos from the Commissioners. The motion passed with a 6/0 vote.
- Commissioner Schrumpf then spoke about paying the bond off for the Government Center Building. He stated that there are issues with paying bonds in full earlier than when they are due. There would be penalties associated with doing so.
- There was also discussion on the cell phone stipend that county employees are receiving for their personal cell phone usage. Rather than providing everyone with a county cell phone, the Commissioners are offering a \$30 stipend in place of a county phone.
- Commissioner Schrumpf informed the Council members that Jim Becher is no longer our IT service provider. Preferred IT is our new provider with a contract in place. He wanted to publicly thank Jim Becher for his service.
- Mark Sturtevant attended the meeting to request an additional appropriation to his budget. He also stated that he would like to purchase a new mower/snow blower for this winter which is right around \$36,000. Mark has obtained two quotes so far and they have been from Kubota and John Deere. Commissioner Schrumpf requested their options from the Council members. Council member Reimers made a motion for the Commissioners and Mark continue to investigate and bring the Council a solid number for the equipment. Council member Overdeer seconded the motion and it passed with a 6/0 vote.
- Commissioner Schrumpf stated that GAI was commissioned to study the Coesse sewer project that has problems with the septic systems. The project's initial price was \$1.3 million and Scott Wagner, Jeff Walker, and GAI Consultants were able to get the price down to \$280,000. This takes care of the problem with the sewer running into the river to the open ditch.

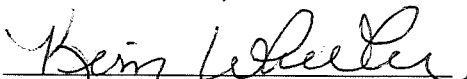
IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Mark Sturtevant had a request for an additional appropriation for \$40,000 in building maintenance. This was due to the account being used for the Courthouse, Government Center, Jail, and Work Release. In past years, the account was only used for the Courthouse and Government Center. Council member Reimers made a motion to table this request until they have further documentation on the additional appropriation. The motion passed with a 6/0 vote.


IN THE MATTER OF THE 2015 BUDGET: Council continued to have questions and discussed the 2015 Budget. Council member Bayman questioned the Sheriff's salary of \$99,000. They discussed where they wanted to start the salary out for the contract. The Council members also wanted to find out what Sheriff Hodges started out at for his salary.


There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 am.

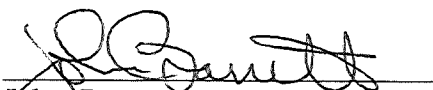
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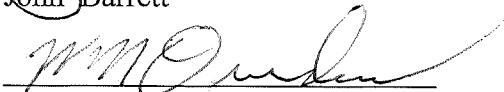

Thomas Western, Chairman

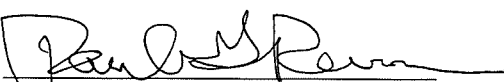

Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman


Jim Bayman

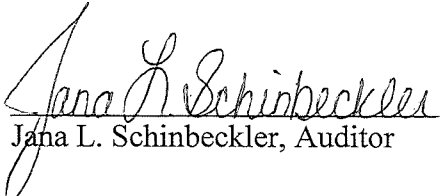

Glen LaRue


John Barrett


William Overdeer


Paula G. Reimers

Attest:


Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

