

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL
WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER
May 5, 2011**

The Whitley County Council and Whitley County Commissioners met in a special joint session on Thursday, May 5, 2011 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Council Chairman Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman John Barrett, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, Tom Western, Paula Reimers and William Overdeer. Commissioners in attendance were Tom Rethlake, Don Amber and George Schrumpf. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Jerry Walker, Sandy Trimmer, Charles Achesod, Ryan Daniels, Phil Smith and Cathy Broxton-Ball.

Commissioner Rethlake called the Commissioner meeting to order. Council Chairman Kim Wheeler called the Council meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER EMS DECISION: Commissioner Rethlake started the meeting stating the reason for the joint meeting today was to discuss the funding for the EMS and to look over the two proposals on the table and get feedback from the public in with any questions. Commissioner Rethlake let everyone know that there had been some changes to the contract with Parkview and they are now willing to enter into a five year contract starting at \$300,000 and increasing every year by \$10,000. Parkview will purchase a EMS every other year that will be owned and maintained by the County, the County will be responsible for the purchase of the EMS on the other years. Parkview will go ahead with the construction of the new building at the new Parkview Whitley facility. The other proposal for the County is to take over the EMS and develop a new department within the County. Prior meetings showed the cost from Jim Freeman's Feasibility Study to be \$252,930 annually. No contract would be entered into and there would be three locations throughout Whitley County to house the EMS, one in Churubusco, one in Columbia City and the last in South Whitley for better response time.

At this time Chairman Rethlake asked for feedback and discussion from each of the Council and Commissioners. After discussion among the members Commissioner allowed any input or questions from the public.

At this time Chairman Rethlake called for a motion in the decision. A motion was made by Commissioner Schrumpf to stay with Parkview at this time, enter into the five year contract and keep the committee updated on the issues involving the EMS funding, Commissioner Rethlake seconded the motion and it carried with a 2/1 vote, with Commissioner Amber casting the nay vote.

After the decision by the Commissioners, Chairman Wheeler called for a motion in funding the Parkview contract for five years for the EMS at \$300,000 with annual increases of \$10,000, continuing the \$1.00 lease for the new building, having a committee in place to over see the funding and review. A motion to approve was made by LaRue, seconded by Overdeer and carried with a 5/2 vote, with Jim Bayman and John Barrett casting the no votes.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tom Rethlake, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

George Schrumpf

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor