

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL
April 5, 2011

The Whitley County Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman John Barrett, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, Tom Western, and William Overdeer. Paula Reimers was absent. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Alan Tio EDC, Dave Koenig Region III-A, Bob Barkley and Gary Gushard, Imaging Office, Systems, Don Wood and Scott Brown 80/20 Inc, Otto Bosch Jr, Tom Rethlake, Don Amber, George Schrupf Commissioners, Michael Schrader, Alex Smith, Phil Smith, Jerry Walker, Betty Wilkinson, Galen Wilkinson, Joan Null, Nick Stanger, Robert Bishir, Terrie Bishir, Caroline Dennis, Mark Mynhier, Mary Tobin, and Larry Long. Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Prior minutes from the March 8, 2011 meeting were reviewed, LaRue wanted a change to the Appointment for the Alcohol Beverage Board from Terry Linn to Ted Linn, after change approved by LaRue and seconded by Bayman and carried with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER 80/20 TAX ABATEMENT: Alan Tio from EDC and Don Woods from 80/20 spoke on behalf of the abatement Resolution #2011-02 request for 80/20 Inc. This will be the fourth expansion to the existing building in the last fourteen years of business here in Whitley County. The new construction will add on 90,000 square foot addition and 110 new employees by 2014. A motion to approve the ten year abatement was made by Overdeer, seconded by Bayman and carried with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF OFFICE IMAGING SYSTEMS INC: Alan Tio from EDC and Bob Barkley from Office Imaging Systems, spoke on behalf of the abatement request for ten years. Stating the new abatement is for IT equipment used in scanning, it will add six new employees and a second shift to the location. A motion by Overdeer to approve Resolution #2011-03 for the ten year abatement, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER INVENTIVE MANAGEMENT FROM EDC: Alan Tio presented the Council with a handout showing the companies, project and incentives that have been implemented in the last two years to promote growth with the existing industries in Whitley County.

IN THE MATTER ARCADIS BILL: Commissioner Rethlake presented the Council a bill for the Phase II Sampling at the Highway site. A request to pay the bill out of Rainy Day Fund was requested, after discussion of why the amount and how the clean up was coming along, a motion was made by Bayman, seconded by LaRue to pay the one time bill from the Rainy Day Fund, and approval with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF WIND CAPITAL GROUP: John Doster from the Wind Capital Group was here to present to the Council on overview of the benefits in having a small to mid size wind farm come to Whitley County in the future. The three townships involved in the study are Cleveland, Washington and Jefferson. John gave some back ground on the company starting in 2005 and history of previous wind farms they have been involved with in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. The first meeting with the land owners was a great turnout of 150 plus people participating in the informational meeting. This was to inform property owners of efficiency, appropriate site studies, and production of the renewable energy. Wind Capital Group likes to stay involved in the communities by initiating a partnership within the district where the wind farms are located by reinvesting into the community.. John gave an overview of each megawatts and what the number of turbines would be from the minimum 50 up to the 250 they are looking at contracting here in Whitley County and how it would impact the economic growth.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORT: Commissioner Chairman Tom Rethlake reported on the following items discussed in the April 4, 2011 Commissioner meeting.

- Nipsco Agreement Permit signed
- \$1.00 HUD home the County purchased for Non-Profit
- April 29, Whitko 3rd grade Field Trip to Government offices
- Land Fill drain clean up-Meet with Mayor Fleck
- Newsletter for April will be done by Commissioner Amber
- Update on Rail Connect Park Project
- Joint Purchasing with schools, cities, townships for bulk pricing
- Joint Meeting rescheduled for April 8, 2011 at 8am

IN THE MATTER OF DIRECT DEPOSIT: Auditor McGuire reported to the Council that she was implementing mandatory direct deposit for all County employees. The cost savings will be in the amount of \$11,000 annually. The new program will start with the first check of 2012 for employees. A binder from Paula Worden showing the progress report of Community Corrections was passed out to all Council member to review and if they had questions to contact Paula. Also presented was the Veteran’s officer report for the month from Gene Roher.

IN OTHER MATTERS: Galen and Betty Wilkinson spoke on behalf of the tax rates for Richland township that involves the South Whitley Library. They want answers in how to address the increase to their property taxes because of the changes implemented by the previous Township trustee in putting a tax rate on the landowners of Richland township instead of having the contract agreement with the library as previously done. The Council took the discussion under advisement.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Kim Wheeler, Chairman

John Barrett, Vice Chairman

James Bayman

Glen LaRue

Thomas E. Western

William N. Overdeer

Paula G. Reimers

Attest:

Jennifer McGuire, Auditor