

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 4, 2010**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday January 4, 2010 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. In attendance were Chairman Tom Rethlake and Vice Chairman Michael D. Schrader. Member Don Amber was absent. Also present for all or part of the meeting was Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Paula Worden, Michael Barton and Post and Mail reporter Chris Meyers. Chairman Rethlake called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of December 21, 2009 were approved as presented.

IN THE MATTER OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Tom Rethlake moved to elect Michael D. Schrader as Chairman and Don Amber as Vice Chairman for 2010. Schrader seconded the motion and the vote was 2/0 in favor of the motion.

IN THE MATTER OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Rethlake moved, seconded by Schrader to appoint Gary Hicks to the South Whitley Plan Commission. The motion passed 2/0. Rethlake moved to appoint Frank Kessler to the Whitley County Redevelopment Commission for 2010. The motion passed 2/0. Rethlake moved to appoint Michael D. Schrader and Tom Rethlake to the Whitley County Redevelopment Commission for 2010. Schrader seconded the motion and it passed 2/0. Rethlake moved to appoint Ben Romine to the Whitley County Redevelopment Authority. Schrader seconded the motion and the vote was 2/0. The Commissioners reviewed all other board appointments for themselves and all remain in the same capacity for 2010.

IN THE MATTER OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A contract with Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership was presented for consideration. The contract is for direct marketing services and economic development activities for a period of one year at a cost of \$13,123. After discussion, Rethlake moved, seconded by Schrader, to take a favorable recommendation to county council to approve the contract and to allow CEDIT funds to pay the contract amount. The motion passed 2/0.

IN THE MATTER OF EDC INVESTMENT BOARD: Discussion was held on a matter presented on December 21, 2009 regarding SubdivisionINFO, a marketing services company connecting land developers and builders with new home buyers. The company is requesting a loan from Region III-A for CEDIT Funds with Whitley County fronting the funds. After the discussion, it was decided to take a favorable recommendation to county council for funding the \$50,000 to Region III-A.

IN THE MATTER OF MUSEUM FURNACE: One of the furnaces in the Whitley County Historical museum needs replaced and the Commissioners received quotes for replacing the furnace. The quotes will be taken to county council for further discussion.

IN THE MATTER OF YOUTH IMPROVEMENT CENTER VEHICLE: Community Corrections Coordinator Paula Worden was present to inform the Board that a grant from the Community Foundation will be given to purchase a small passenger bus for transporting youth to the Troy Center. Worden also questioned snow removal for the Work Release Center and Troy Center. Highway Supervisor Michael Barton commented that the Highway Department may not always be available to clear the snow and that Worden should have a backup plan for snow removal.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Michael Barton was present to report that two new side plows have been delivered and that bids will be taken on January 19, 2010 for a new single-axle truck. He wants to do a lease purchase for the truck. He will then plan to do the same in 2011 and 2012. Due to recent weather, 75% of the salt and sand has been used and refilled. There is 80 ton of salt now under cover. Barton plans to schedule a meeting in January for the Federal Aid Program on East County Line Road.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR REPORT: Amy Crickmore presented a Short Term Disability request for an employee. The request is for approximately \$1357.81. Rethlake moved, seconded by Schrader and was approved with a 2/0 vote. Crickmore will be meeting with other members of the Census Committee. The Wellness Program will begin January 5 and a new Biggest Loser Program will start January 11, 2010.

IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT REQUESTS: Work Order #43619-22 was approved as submitted for NIPSCO.

IN THE MATTER OF ANNUAL REPORTS: Weights and Measures Inspector Scott Wagner presented his 2009 Annual Report for the Whitley County Health Department.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Michael D. Schrader, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake, Member

Attest:

Linda J. Gerig, Auditor