

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 16, 2010

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 16, 2010 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. In attendance were Chairman Michael D. Schrader, Vice Chairman Don Amber and Tom Rethlake. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Attorney Dan Sigler, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Engineer Brandon Forrester, GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, Sheriff Mark Hodges, Deputy Bill Brice, Jim Schrimper, Tim Blake, Gene Heckman, Daren Shaffer, John Langmaid and Post and Mail reporter Deanna Pogorelc. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schrader.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND VENDOR CLAIMS: The minutes of August 2 and the vendor claims of August 16, 2010 were approved as presented.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW PLOTTER: Dan Weigold was present to report on the purchase of a new plotter for GIS. The matter was previously discussed on July 19 and the Board had asked Weigold to do some further study. Weigold stated he would like to purchase a new 36 inch plotter from Digital Reprographics. The cost, which includes trade-in of the old plotter at a value of \$1000, will be \$4195. Money has been allocated in the 2010 CEDIT Plan for GIS expenditures.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Dan Sigler reported on two Junk and Trash Ordinance Violations he continues to work on. A Rule of Show Cause is to be filed on the Hinzman violation as no attempt has been made to clean up the property. Sigler will respond to the attorney who, on behalf of Northern Indiana Public Service Company, has filed a claim for damages in the amount of \$1,967.34. The claim states that on August 12, 2009 a gas service line was struck and damaged by the Whitley County Highway Department. Sigler will respond to this claim. The Sheriff Retirement Plan Amendment was reviewed by Sigler and he sees no issues with the document.

IN THE MATTER OF ROAD WAY OBSTRUCTION: Daren Shaffer was present to defend himself against allegations stated by neighbors that he had built an obstruction in the road-right-of-way on Fox Drive. Shaffer displayed pictures and explained on-going discontent among neighbors. Shaffer had been notified by the Whitley County Highway Department to remove the obstruction and Attorney Sigler stated that the next step would be to file a Nuisance Claim against him. After further discussion of the matter, Sigler stated that new facts had been brought out and he would like more time to investigate. Rethlake moved, seconded by Amber, to table the matter for 30 days. The motion passed 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Michael Barton was present to report on road work on Wise Road, Dowell Road and 450 North. Amber asked that Barton consider placing "buggy signs" in Cleveland Township.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Sheriff Deputy Bill Brice was present to discuss the need for an ordinance against the selling of K2 in Whitley County. Brice explained the effects of K2 and instances that have occurred from the sale of it. K2 is a type of pot-pourri that has been sprayed with a synthetic THC, the intoxication ingredient in marijuana. There are steps being taken to develop testing, but non are available at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF COMPUTER SERVERS: Jim Becher was present to explain the issue with computer servers in the Government Center. Becher would like to do some moving of programs, etc. to a server that is not being fully utilized. The issue is causing many programs to run slowly. Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake, to allow the server issue to be taken care of. The motion carried 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR: Amy Crickmore presented a request for use of the county gazebo on October 1, 2011. The request was approved. The 2011 Holiday Schedules will be reviewed on September 8, 2010. Colonial Life presented information to Crickmore on their individual insurance plans for consideration. Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake, that the plan not be offered if it involves a payroll deduction. The motion carried 3/0. Discussion continued on the Sick Pay Bank. Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake, that a plan be created for the Sick Pay Bank. The motion passed 2/1 with Rethlake casting the No vote. Amber will work with Crickmore on the plan and present it on September 7, 2010.

IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT REQUESTS: The permit submitted by Verizon North, Inc. for utility work on E 600 North was approved as submitted.

IN THE MATTER OF TAX SALE CONTRACT: Auditor Gerig presented a Professional Services Agreement from Government Utilities Technology Service (GUTS). The vendor is used as the County's tax sale vendor. The Agreement automatically renews for subsequent terms of one (1) year, unless at least thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date either party gives written notice to the other party of its intention to terminate the agreement. Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake, to approve and sign the Agreement. The motion passed 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Commissioner Rethlake reported that he has received a request from the E911 Director to enlarge his office by accessing the office space directly behind. A door opening could be cut in the wall and allow for that expansion. Commissioner Amber is working on issues with the Prosecutor's files being in the Government Center's File Management Area and the possibility of moving them to the lower level of the jail. Commissioner Schrader is working on finding office space for the Literacy Council. Schrader announced that the September 7 meeting of the Whitley County Commissioners will be held in South Whitley at the South Whitley-Cleveland Township Public Library. The meeting on October 4 will be held at the Churubusco Town Hall.

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