

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL
APRIL 6, 2010

The Whitley County Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, 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, Thomas Western, William Overdeer and James E. Banks. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were County Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, County Attorney Dan Sigler, State Representative Dan Leonard, Mike Schrader, Alan Tio, Jim Atz, Gene Heckman, Frank Kessler, Post and Mail reporter Chris Meyers and Jennifer Zartman-Romano. Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of March 2, 2010 were approved as presented.

IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST: A request for ten-year abatement for a new storage facility located at Farmers Grain and Feed Company, Inc. was presented. The estimated cost of the improvement was stated as \$1,250,000 and would add capacity that the company would use for better inventory control and inventory protection. The new improvement would help strengthen the grain market and help retain employees. Better prices could also be passed along to customers. Farmers Grain and Feed Company has been located in Whitley County for nearly 60 years. The expansion is necessary to continue to compete with neighboring counties. The estimated starting date for the project is April 6, 2010 with a September 30, 2010 completion date. There are currently twenty-three employees and the abatement request states that one additional employee would be added. It was noted that the number of jobs created by a previous abatement had exceeded expectations. The Redevelopment Commission recommends five-year abatement instead of the requested ten-years. Resolution No. 2010-08 was introduced requesting five-year abatement for real property improvements. Overdeer moved, seconded by Western, to approve Resolution No. 2010-08 granting the five-year abatement. The motion carried 6/1 with Glen LaRue casting the No vote. Mr. Dennis Shively, Vice President of Farmers Grain and Feed Company, Inc., was not present for the abatement request.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY HIGHWAY REPORT: Michael Barton reported to the Board that the new highway truck should be delivered by May 6, 2010. Barton is considering the rental of a milling machine to be used during the months of May and June. The machine could be leased at \$18,000/month. Whitley County is on the list for consideration to receive money from the Jobs Bill. The highway department is working daily on filling pot holes. Barton informed council members that a public meeting will be held April 21 at the Government Center to review the 2010 Road Plan with taxpayers.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORT: Commissioner Chairman Michael D. Schrader presented the following report:

- Tri Lakes Appeal Board had appointed Steve Heaston as representative, but has found out that he cannot serve.
- Newly hired employees will have a 30-day waiting period for health care benefits.
- Repair work on the jail elevator, estimated to cost \$2650, was approved.
- Chillers are down on the jail's heating/cooling system and at this time one will be replaced.
- A contract for cell phone providers is being worked on.
- Whitley County will be receiving grant money for energy work to be done at the jail.
- EMS Contract is awaiting finalization.
- Community Corrections will be receiving a \$432,685 grant for the period of July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011.
- Commissioners signed resolutions regarding the establishment of a new TIF area and its financing.
- Issues were brought to the Board's attention regarding a new subdivision being developed in Allen County on 800 East and effecting some Whitley County drainage issues.

IN THE MATTER OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT: Auditor Linda Gerig presented a quote from Microage Networks, Inc. for the replacement of two computers, file server and other equipment totaling \$2,434.00. Jim Banks moved, seconded by Glen LaRue to accept the quote. The motion passed 7/0.

The rest of the meeting was spent with Representative Dan Leonard and council members held discussion on possible funding mechanisms for EMS funding. No clear solutions came from the conversations.

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 Overdeer

James E. Banks

Attest:

Linda J. Gerig, Auditor