

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 5, 2010

The Whitley County Council met on Wednesday May 5, 2010 due to Tuesday May 4, 2010 being Election Day and county offices were closed. The meeting was held 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 Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Purdue Extension Director Cindy Barnett, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, Gene Heckman, Don Amber, David Koenig, Stan Reiff and Steve Reiff. Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: It was noted that the correct starting time of the meeting held on April 6 was 8:00 a.m. With that correction being noted, the minutes of April 6 were approved as presented.

IN THE MATTER OF EXTENSION REPORT: Cindy Barnett presented a review of the past year's activity of the Purdue Cooperative Extension services. The 2010 Annual Report was distributed to council members.

IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA: David Koenig of Region III-A along with Stan and Steve Reiff were present to request the establishment of a new Economic Revitalization Area (ERA) in Cleveland Township. The area being requested is 20.25 acres and located at 5650 W 800 South. An ERA provides for subsequent deductions from assessed valuation for real estate improvements and qualified personal property located within a designated ERA. The designation of an ERA leads the way for growth and development of an otherwise undesirable area of normal development. It also allows for tax abatements to be granted for development and growth of business. Stan Reiff spoke on the request explaining that due to the downturn in the economy, the business is trying to attract new customers and diversify their painting/sandblasting services. After further discussion, Resolution No. 2010-09, A Declaratory Resolution Designating Certain Real Estate Within Whitley County As An Economic Revitalization Area (ERA), was introduced. Bayman moved, seconded by Overdeer, to approve and sign Resolution No. 2010-09. The motion carried 7/0. (See Resolution No. 2010-09 on file in the auditor's office) Discussion was held on the possibility of creating a county-wide ERA as it would expedite the process of companies applying for tax abatements. No decision was made.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DIRECTOR: Michael Barton was present to discuss the fact that the Jobs Bill has been put on hold. The highway department has negotiated the price down on leasing a milling machine. The cost will be \$16,000 per month and plans are to use the machine in June and October. Barton explained the plans for summer road work. The new highway truck should be delivered in two weeks.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSION REPORT: Don Amber was present to give the report from the May 3rd commissioner meeting. Amber yielded to County Coordinator Amy Crickmore to report on the new cell phone provider chosen by the commissioners. Crickmore explained that quotes were obtained from AT&T, Centennial Wireless and Verizon. AT&T was chosen as the provider. Amber continued his report saying that notification had been received that reimbursement from the state for EMA Director salary is below the 50% stated in the original agreement. Commissioners will send a letter stating their concern with the lesser amount received. Amber will schedule a meeting with State Representative Robert Alderman also. Amber reported that the courthouse gazebo is closed until June 19 due to needing repairs. The process for a Planning Grant has started for a Coesse Sewer and Water Project. It was stated that Community Corrections has requested moving their offices to the Work Release Center, but no decisions were made. The commissioners approved paying the \$600 tuition for Amy Crickmore to participate in Leadership Whitley County classes.

IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENTS: The Certificates of Compliance (CF-1) for currently filed abatements were reviewed and approved for 80/20, Inc., Micropulse and Coupled Products.

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