

## WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

April 7, 2015

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Tom Western, Jim Bayman, Bill Overdeer, John Barrett, and Paula Reimers. Absent were Vice Chairman Kim Wheeler and Glen LaRue. Also in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Commissioner Tom Rethlake, Commissioner George Schrumpf, Mark Parker, Mary Hartman, Matt Rentschler, Brandon Forrester, Liane Minier, Jason Spencer, Sheriff Gatton, and Charlie Heflin.

Chairman Western called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT VEHICLES AND POLICE PENSION:** In regard to the police pension, Sheriff Gatton presented the paperwork to the Council and explained the changes that were required by the State. After discussion, Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the police pension with the approval of the merit board, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 5/0 vote. In regard to Sheriff vehicles, they have looked into how much a Dodge truck would cost which is \$26,800 and a Ford truck would cost \$30,681 which is roughly \$4,000 more than the Dodge. The price for Dodge Chargers that would be outfitted is \$23,197. Sheriff Gatton explained that they would like to purchase two Dodge trucks and one Dodge Charger. After discussion, Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the Sheriff's department not to spend over the \$80,000 budgeted, seconded by Barrett, and passed with a 4/1 vote with Bayman voting against.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE CEDIT REQUEST:** Liane Minier from the Whitley County Economic Development Corporation presented a request to the Commissioners for \$10,000 in CEDIT funds from the onsite/offsite projects. This would be to support two emerging opportunities. The first is the Regional Cities Initiative which seeks to identify external funding sources for quality of place projects and if successful will likely include the state matching funds. The second project is investing in manufacturing communities' partnership which involves Allen, Kosciusko, and Whitley County. The counties are collaborating on an IMCP designation to support the medical device manufacturing sector along US 30. After discussion, Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the request of \$10,000 of CEDIT funds, seconded by Bayman, and passed with a 5/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PEABODY LIBRARY UPDATE:** Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public library gave an annual report for 2014 to the Commissioners. Mary stated that 2014 was a very successful year for the library. It was named the Jewel of the Community by the Chamber of Commerce and they have been able to offer more computer classes than they had before. For 2014, 161,634 people visited the library and 11,676 of those people came to the library to use the meeting rooms available. Mary also informed the Commissioners that there are many different programs that the library has to offer and hopes that this year is just as successful as last year.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LIGHTS FOR EMA VEHICLE:** EMA Director Charlie Heflin explained to Council that he had to purchase materials for hazardous materials and has been reimbursed by the company. He requested that the check that was deposited from them to be adjusted back into his line item in case there is another need for hazardous materials. Charlie also requested that the insurance check from Travelers for the EMA Durango that was totaled to be adjusted into his budget as well in order for him to use the funds to add lights and decals to his vehicle. The amount for the hazardous materials was \$1,672.67 and the Travelers check was for \$5,294.80. After discussion, the Council is in support of this as long as the EMA board gives their approval.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE EXTENSION UPDATE:** Cindy Barnett from the Extension office gave an update and a 2015 annual report to the Commissioners for the extension office. She covered several different programs that they are offering this year, including their Signature Programs, and some 4-H Youth Program Facts. Some of the Signature Programs include Dining with Diabetes, Captain Cash, Where Does your Money Go?, Parenting Counts, etc. This year 779 youth are enrolled in the Whitley County 4-H program and 16 of them are participating in the Whitley County Youth Leadership Program. She hopes that 2015 is going to be another great year for the Purdue Extension Whitley County Office.

**IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCES:** Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented a Heritage Barn Ordinance that would allow for the County to collect \$50 annually for a public safety fee. The \$50 would be for \$25 towards the township fire department that the barn is in and \$25 towards the Sheriff's department. After discussion, Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Overdeer, and did not pass with a 2/3 vote with Bayman, Western, and Barrett voting against. The second ordinance presented by Jana was to establish a Self-Insurance fund. After review, Council member Barrett made a motion to approve Ordinance 2015-04, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 5/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROPRIATION REDUCTIONS:** Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented appropriation reductions to County General in order to help the 2015 budget. The amount was for \$764,933.00 and the Council reviewed each of the reductions. After review, Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the reductions, seconded by Barrett, and passed with a 5/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION:** County Prosecutor Matt Rentschler requested an additional appropriation for the Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering fund. The amount requested was for operating supplies in the amount of \$30,000. After discussion, Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the request and to appropriate the rest of the funds for 2016, seconded by Reimers, and passed with a 5/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the March 3, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Overdeer, and passed with a 5/0 vote.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT:** Commissioner Rethlake gave a report from the Commissioners meeting:

- Commissioner Rethlake gave the Council an update on the McKinney case and stated that our County Attorney Dan Sigler will be handling this.
- The Commissioners made a decision on the fence that is needed downstairs in file management for the IV-D files. The decided to go with Option 2 which was a cost of \$3,186. The Council made a general consensus that they approved this expenditure.
- Commissioner Rethlake requested for the second time that the Council give approval for the expenditure out of CEDIT for the YMCA in the amount of \$25,000. It is for an education program that will help families. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the request; the motion did not pass for lack of a second motion.
- The parking lot that the County owns in town is not being used by County employees any longer. Commissioner Rethlake stated that they could either sell it or try to update the lot. He said that the City may potentially be interested in purchasing it so he is requesting the Council's permission to sell the lot. After discussion, the Council made a general consensus that they approve selling the lot.


**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** County Engineer Brandon Forrester is requesting that the Council possibly look at changing the Cumulative Bridge Fund rate to increase bridge funding. He stated that the problem is less revenue and more expense for bridges. The average bridge replacement cost in 2004-2008 was \$201,812 and the average bridge replacement cost estimate for 2015-2027 is \$353,700. Brandon stated that he has projected \$600,000 per year to replace 20 bridges over the next 12 years. Considering recent revenue, past expenses, and project estimates there is an additional \$250,000 to \$300,000 per year to continue on the program that we are on. The program includes bridge replacement, bridge repair, culvert replacement, bridge inspections, and culvert inspections. The Council had several different questions and they stated they would consider a change in the rate as long as they have all of their questions answered at the next meeting in May.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

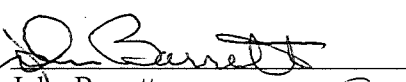
**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

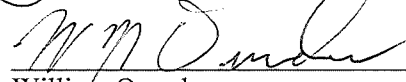
  
Thomas Western, Chairman


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Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman

  
Jim Bayman


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Glen LaRue

  
John Barrett

  
William Overdeer

  
Paula G. Reimers

Attest:

  
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor