

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

September 9, 2015

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Tom Western, Vice Chairman Kim Wheeler, Jim Bayman, Bill Overdeer, Glen LaRue, John Barrett, and Paula Reimers. Also in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Commissioner Tom Rethlake, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Library, County Engineer Brandon Forrester, Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office, Karen Blake from the Highway Department, Mark Sturtevant from the Maintenance Department, Jorell Tucker from Solid Waste, George Schruppf, and Planning Director Victoria Chavez.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR WHITLEY COUNTY & WHITLEY COUNTY SOLID WASTE 2016 BUDGET: Council member Wheeler made a motion for 2% raises for County employees in 2016, seconded by Bayman, and passed with a 7/0 vote. Jorell Tucker from the Solid Waste district presented his budget to Council. There was an overall 1 ½% increase for the budget. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve the Solid Waste budget, seconded by Reimers, and passed with a 7/0 vote. There were not any other questions or comments at this time from the public or the Council.

IN THE MATTER OF 2015/2016 BUDGET OVERVIEW: Paige Sansone from H.J. Umbaugh & Associates gave a presentation to the Council for the 2015 and 2016 budget overview. She explained that several funds for the County show a downward trend for cash reserves. Paige stated that the recommended amount is at least 15% cash reserves left at the end of the year for each fund. If the County continues on this path our overall cash reserves will go from 27.3% in 2015 to 20.6% in 2016. There were also several different reports from 2011 to 2016 (estimated) that showed what the County's receipts have been compared to the expenditures. There are some funds that have been expensing more than what has been receipted in over the last few years. Paige explained that there are a few funding options for 2016 to help get the County back on track. There is the option of adopting the Public Safety LOIT tax. The estimated receipts for the County would be around \$1,007,700 and this would allow for the County to shift expenses out of the County General fund to the Public Safety LOIT fund. There were three other options that were given to the Council. They could increase the Cumulative Capital Development fund to the max rate of \$0.0333 and it would generate an additional \$65,000 in property taxes. They could also increase the CEDIT rate to the max of 0.25% rather than the current rate of 0.20%. The third option, which is more of a suggestion, is to review charges for services to determine if fees need to be increased to offset the costs of providing services to the public. The Council thanked Paige for her presentation and stated they will take her recommendations/options into consideration.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2016 BUDGET: Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office stated that if the Council cut her budget by \$11,300 it would greatly hurt her department. The Council proposed cutting their printing line item by \$9,000 which the main expense there is the printing of their newsletter. The second item they cut was the printing and advertising line item by \$2,300. Cindy requested that the Council does not make these cut due to it being crucial for everything they need to print in their office. The Council made no decisions at this time. Mark Sturtevant from the Maintenance Department stated that if the Council cuts his part-time budget for 2016 by \$14,500 he will be short for the year and we need to ask for additional funding. He already needs to request an additional \$12,000 for the 2015 budget year in order to have enough for his part-time. The Council recommended a transfer for Mark in the current year. Council member Barrett made a motion for a transfer and requested the paperwork be brought to them at the next meeting, seconded by Overdeer, and passed with a 6/1 vote with LaRue voting against.

IN THE MATTER OF A VEHICLE REQUEST: County Engineer Brandon Forrester presented a vehicle request to the Council to replace their Chevy truck. The vehicle needs many repairs and the department has already spent \$900 on repairs but the truck needs another \$2,000 worth of work done. After Council discussed the request, Council member LaRue made a motion to just repair the truck this year, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

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|---------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1000.12702.000.0136 | Pauper Attorney | \$15,000 |
| 1000.36005.000.0136 | Exams-Medical/Mental | \$3,300 |
| 1176.23001.000.0201 | Bituminous | \$150,000 |

In regard to the additional appropriation request for Pauper Attorney and Exams-Medical/Mental, Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Reimers, and carried with a 6/1 vote with Barrett voting against. The additional appropriation for Bituminous had a motion to be approved by Bayman, seconded by Reimers, and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS:

| | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|
| 1000.11101.000.0124 | Director | 1000.30000.000.0124 | Professional Svcs | \$4,500 |
| 1110.37006.000.0000 | Equip Maint/Lease | 1110.32503.000.0000 | EMS Expenses | \$10,000 |
| 1138.36004.000.0256 | Building Maintenance | 1138.59000.000.0256 | Misc. Expense | \$2,500 |
| 1176.23001.000.0201 | Bituminous | 1176.27200.000.0201 | Calcium Chloride | \$15,000 |
| 1216.39004.000.0102 | Conference/Mtg | 1216.37000.000.0102 | Equip/Prog Maint | \$2,000 |

In regard to the transfer for the Director to Professional Services, Council member Reimers made a motion to approve, seconded by Barrett, and passed with a 7/0 vote. The transfer in CAGIT from Equip Maint/Lease to EMS Expenses had a motion by Council member Bayman to approve the request, seconded by Wheeler, and carried with a 5/2 vote with Reimers and Overdeer voting against. The transfer in Cumulative Capital Development from Building Maintenance to Misc. Expense had a motion by LaRue to be approved, seconded by Overdeer, and passed with a 7/0 vote. The transfer for the Highway department from Bituminous to Calcium Chloride was approved by Bayman, seconded by Reimers, and carried with a 7/0 vote. The transfer for Conference/Meeting to Equip/Prog Maint had a motion to be approved by Reimers, seconded by LaRue, and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the August 4, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction. The correction was under In the Matter of Part Time/Temporary Employee Request that read, “Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the transfer for \$5,000 from Other Services to Part-Time, seconded by LaRue, and carried with a 3/0 vote”. It should read with a 7/0 vote. The motion was seconded by Wheeler, and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF NON-BINDING REVIEWS: The Council members reviewed the non-binding reviews for all of the townships, schools, and libraries. After review the Council members made no recommendations/changes to the non-binding reviews. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve all of the non-binding reviews, seconded by Barrett, and carried with a 7/0 vote.

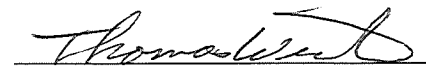
COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Commissioner Rethlake gave a report from the Commissioners meeting:

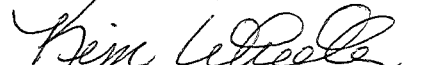
- Commissioner Rethlake reported there are not any intentions on moving back to the TROY Center. The last payment to the Etna Troy township trustee was made this month for \$1,200.
- The comprehensive plan from Columbia City was presented by Rethlake to the Council.
- A pool car for the departments was discussed at the Commissioner’s meeting. Rethlake explained that this would decrease payout of mileage for departments and would help the budget.
- RQAW was present at the Commissioner’s meeting to request a copy of the DLZ feasibility study for the jail. They would like to potentially perform their own study or make suggestions from the DLZ feasibility study.
- Rethlake reported that Amy Biggs has been hired as the new EMA Director. She is not required to quit her Fort Wayne Fire Department job.

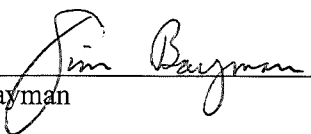
IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented the Warner Electric abatement to the Council for review. The abatements for 2015 pay 2016 were due in May and their abatement was turned in this month. After discussion, the Council asked to send a letter to remind them when their abatement request is due. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the Warner Electric abatement for 2015 pay 2016, seconded by LaRue, and passed with a 6/1 vote with Barrett voting against. The Council discussed the Public Safety Tax that would be an income tax in Whitley County. The rate could potentially be up to 0.25 and it can be used for a variety of items in regard to public safety per IC Code 6-3.5-1.1-25. Some examples of what this can be used for is: a police and law enforcement system to preserve public peace and order, a firefighting and fire prevention system, emergency medical services, a County Jail, a juvenile detention facility, a County Sheriff or any other member of the office of the County Sheriff, etc. After review, Council member Barrett made a motion to approve to move forward with adopting the Public Safety Tax, seconded by Overdeer, and passed with a 4/3 vote with Reimers, Wheeler, and Bayman voting against.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.


WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL


Thomas Western, Chairman

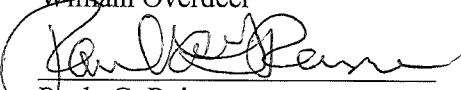

Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman


Jim Bayman

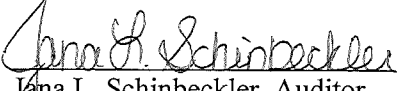
Glen LaRue


John Barrett


William Overdeer


Paula G. Reimers

Attest:


Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

