

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 20, 2017

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 20, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman George Schrumpf, Vice Chairman Don Amber and Commissioner Thomas Western. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pamela Smith, Dave Hall, Derreck Stahly from IN Whitley County, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Marlie Reed from BCS Management, Park Director Mark Green from City of Columbia City, Tad Varga from the City Council, Linda Thomson from the Post & Mail, David Raypole, Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Scott Wagner from the Health Department and Joan Null.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Sigler stated that Julie Jensen-Kelley contacted him regarding the narcan administration. Julie submitted the changes that Sigler had requested. He now gives his approval for the policy with one change. He would like it to state that there must be representation that a physician has a supervisory role to answer questions. Attorney Sigler suggested that the physician be Health Officer Dr. Hatcher. In regard to the Liberty Mills / County Road improvements, the deeds have been approved and reviewed by Sigler for the temporary easements. The matter concerning the property on Diamond Street, Attorney Sigler is recommending the Commissioners to reject the County's offer to the property owner. Commissioner Amber made a motion for Sigler to reject the County's offer to the property owner, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW AQUATIC CENTER: City of Columbia City Park Director Mark Green and Tad Varga from the City Council gave a presentation to the Commissioners in regard to the new aquatic center in Columbia City. The new aquatic center will be named the Russel and Evelyn Fahl Aquatic Center. The Russell Fahl family made a large donation to the project. The amount needed for the project was \$4.2 million. They would also like to add an ice skating facility next to the aquatic center. The City expects it will take four to five years to receive 100% recapture rate of the project. The Burnworth Pool was opened in 1960, lasted 57 years and was built for \$78,000. The decision for the new facility was made based upon a study done in 2012 showing many structural and mechanical defects which would cost over \$1,000,000 to repairs. Mark then stated how the City came up with the project. They formed a Pool Task Force and developed an outdoor family aquatic center concept which would be a recreational facility for local families and visitors in the community. It will have more than 7,500 square feet of outdoor recreational space. This space includes a competition pool with six 25-meter lanes, an adjacent zero depth entry pool with a water play feature, multiple waterslides, etc. Mark presented a breakdown of the donors for the current funding for the facility. The total amount raised for the project is \$3,400,000 and the amount still needed \$861,304.79. They are hoping to receive a grant for the remaining funds needed. The City is still trying to raise an additional \$180,000 for an outdoor pavilion and additional storage and would appreciate any funding the County could give. They are hoping not to have separate rates for the City and County citizens of Whitley County.

IN THE MATTER OF THE BCS MANAGEMENT / WHITLEY COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT UPDATE: Marlie Reed from BCS Management gave a project update to the Commissioners for the Whitley County Regional Water and Sewer District. To date, BCS Management has spoken with Churubusco, Tri-Lakes, Columbia City, Aqua Indiana Inc. and South Whitley for the regional sewer district. They have drafted a petition to IDEM (Indiana Department of Environmental Management) for the formation of the Regional Sewer District and the submission to IDEM is pending approval. They have created a logo for the project and hope to have a mailbox at the County Commissioner's office. The priority outreach target areas for 2017 are the south and west sides of Churubusco, the 2nd half of Coesse, Tri-Lakes, Aqua Indiana Inc. for East County Line Road and South Whitley. In regard to board appointments, BCS Management is suggesting a total of 7 appointments. They recommend three appointments by the Commissioners, one by the Council, one by the executive of South Whitley, one by the executive of Churubusco and one by the executive of Columbia City. At this point, they are also seeking land survey, engineering, attorney and financial consultant partners. The Commissioners thanked Marlie for her update and had no further questions at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE – HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE PLAN: EMA Director Amy Biggs presented the Local Emergency Planning Committee's Hazardous Materials Response Plan to the Commissioners. She has been using LEPC funds to pay an outside contractor to aid in developing this plan. This plan identifies the facilities within the community that use hazardous material substances. This deals with facilities only, so it does not include materials that are transported through the County. There are 39 facilities that are of extreme concern and those are identified by hazardous materials that the State and Federal Government consider extremely hazardous substances. Amy worked with local responders to develop this plan. She ensured the Commissioners that it is compliant with what the State recommendations are. The plan has been submitted to the State and has been accepted. Amy wants to work with the local emergency responders to provide a floorplan of the individual facilities to know their layouts, exterior and interior views. The plan has been accepted by the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) but it must be acknowledged, accepted by the Commissioners and approved by the Auditor since it is a County response plan. This could involve legislative and financial decisions in its implementation. Commissioner Amber made a motion to adopt the LEPC Hazardous Materials Response Plan, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. In regard to an update on the P25 radio programming, Amy stated that they did have to postpone a meeting with a secondary provider who deals with Motorola radios. They had issues with the State providing the IDs for the radios that they needed to program. J & K Communications is making progress on the update and additional issues had to be handled. There are a few fire departments that do not wish to move forward with the update. Out of all the radios the County has, which is about 276, the County will be around 80% compliant. There are still 18 radios missing overall. Commissioner Western asked if there are any ramifications for the departments that are not planning to participate in the update. Amy stated it may cause issues with Federal or State grants which is a concern. Amy reported that this week is Severe Weather Preparedness week. She has emergency preparedness bags available that has all the essentials for a family of four for one week. The State has also provided weather radios to the EMA department to provide to citizens in the County free of charge.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SHERIFF VEHICLE: Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter is requesting the Commissioners grant her a Sheriff vehicle when they rotate their vehicles out to receive new. The Probation Officers are required to do home visits on their clients. At this time, the Probation Department only has access to one vehicle. Due to only having one vehicle, their personal vehicle must be used occasionally to complete their duties. For safety, Amy would like to see the Probation Officer's personal vehicles not be used. They currently have a Ford Escape that has around 30,000 to 40,000 miles. The Sheriff vehicle that Amy would like to obtain has around 116,000 miles on it and it was used for transports of inmates. The Commissioners agreed that Probation does need a secondary vehicle and they will take it under advisement.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE & SKIDLOADER QUOTES: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented three quotes to the Commissioners for a new skid loader. The three quotes were from Rigg's Outdoor Power Equipment, Southeastern Equipment and More Farm Store. All three quotes were for a Kubota skid loader. The lowest quote was from More Farm Store in the amount of \$60,500. Council has already verbally approved this purchase. Commissioner Amber made a motion to accept the quote from More Farm Store, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Brandon will be presenting a transfer request for Council for the equipment purchases at the April Council meeting. There is \$200,000 budgeted in equipment but he needs a transfer for \$137,000. The new used Gradall will be picked up later this week. Brandon reported that he attended road school March 7th and 8th. He spent several hours in class over asset management for the County roads. He would like to get all the roads in an asset management plan to apply for additional funding from the State. In regard to INDOT, they have sent a preliminary request for an unofficial detour. The State will be replacing a small structure on SR 205 which is northeast of Wolf Road. Brandon chose to use Dowell Road for the unofficial detour. Brandon received another right-of-way permit application from Mobilitie but he has not received the proposed agreement that the Commissioners stated they wanted before they approved and signed any of Mobilitie's permits. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table until the County receives an agreement, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. In regard to County roads, there are no plans to make any gravel roads into chip and seal roads at this time. Brandon stated that the biggest issue with the County roads is primarily drainage issues and lack of base on the roads.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the March 6, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioner's reviewed the payroll claims for February 27, 2017. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from March 6, 2017 through March 20, 2017 were reviewed by the Commissioners. A motion to approve the claims was made by Commissioner Amber, seconded by Commissioner Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR: County Coordinator Pamela Smith presented two requests to use County facilities to the Commissioners. The first request was from the Whitley County Farmers Market Board of Directors. They would like to have the farmers market on Saturday mornings from May 6, 2017 to October 28, 2017 and future seasons. They are requesting verification of permission to use the grassy areas adjacent to sidewalks on the three blocks of the farmer's market vendor sites. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request and Amber seconded it with discussion. Commissioner Amber asked if there has been damage in the past and Pam stated she believes there has not been. After discussion, the motion passed with all in favor. The second request was from the Downtown Business Alliance for Art in the Alley on June 17, 2017 and the second Saturday of each summer month after that. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

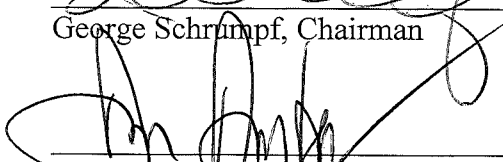
IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: The first permit request was from Century Link. The request was to replace an existing cable that was damaged due to lightning along County Road North 650 West. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second permit request was from Baseline Communications. The request was to relocate buried fiber optic lines along the East County Line Road. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the Baseline Communications request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Sharon Geiger from the Downtown Business Alliance came before the Commissioners to make a request for their events for Art in the Alley. They would like to put in benches and possibly flower pots in the alley to enhance it. Sharon stated that no one cleans the alley and she was wondering who is responsible for cleaning it. The Commissioners stated that they will ask Mark Sturtevant or Kyle Peppler to see who is responsible for cleaning the alley. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that he will have Mark Sturtevant work with the City to see what is allowable to put in the alley in regard to benches and flower pots. Auditor Schinbeckler reported to the Commissioners that there will be 27 instead of 26 pays in 2018. Commissioner Amber asked what the reasoning was for discontinuing the County being a part of Region IIIA. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that the cost was more than the benefit. In regard to the Personnel Committee, Commissioner Schrumpf stated that they met and factored the Human Resources Director and Human Resources Coordinator. The Director refactoring went from a PAT 2 to a PAT 1 which means the current salary is \$49,329 and it would be requested to increase to \$58,262. There will also be a request for the new position of Human Resources Coordinator, which may be full time or part time and the wage for full time would start at \$32,270. Commissioner Western made a motion to give a favorable pass to Council, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schrumpf reported that Unified shows there is \$129,513 in our medical trust fund. The medical loan the County has now has a balance of \$250,000.


There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schrumpf, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


Thomas Western

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

