

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 21, 2017

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, August 21, 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, Commissioner Don Amber and Commissioner Thomas Western. Others in attendance were County Attorney Matt Shipman, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Thorncreek Township Trustee Gene Heckman, Mark Green and Zach Lonsbury from the Columbia City Parks Department, Tad Varga from the Columbia City Council, Whitley County Council member Chad Banks, Linda Thomson from the Post and Mail, Scott Sigerfoos from Lutheran Health Network, Gary Hicks from Cleveland Township, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Janelle Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Marc Gatton, Jim Croy and John Croy from Croy Brothers Well Drilling, Cleveland Township Trustee James Yeager, Whitley County Council members Thor Hodges and John Barrett, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Leslee Derbeck and Heidi Darley from STAR Insurance and Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: County Attorney Matt Shipman informed the Commissioners that he has sent letters to InWelligent Healthcare and Solstice Medical requesting the County funds that were paid to them be repaid to the County. Matt has also reviewed the Buchanan & Bruggenschmidt agreement for property tax legal services for the Wheeler property in Whitley County. He changed a few things on the agreement for the Commissioner's review. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table the agreement, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Attorney Shipman has reviewed the Cintas proposal for the Highway Department for uniforms. He has reviewed it and given the agreement his approval. Commissioner Amber made a motion to allow Brandon to sign the Cintas contract upon Brandon's approval, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PLAT APPROVAL: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented the Wildflower Ridge Addition plat to the Commissioners. All of the right-of-way in the plat is owned by the State and it needs approval from the Board of Commissioners and the Columbia City Board of Works but has been approved by the Columbia City Plan Commission. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the Wildflower Ridge Addition plat, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE WELL VARIANCE REQUEST: Jim and John Croy from Croy Brothers Well Drilling came before the Commissioners to discuss the letter from the Health Department that ordered the owner of the residence to pay a fine of \$500.00 within thirty days of receiving the letter and to re-drill their well because it was not placed where Scott marked it. The well that was drilled was eight feet from the house and not ten like it states in the County ordinance. Scott's other concern about where the well was drilled was how close it is to the septic. There are State requirements for how close a well can be to the septic on the property and Scott needs to re-measure to ensure it is far enough away. Commissioner Amber stated that he would like to come to a resolution with them that is legal and works for both the County and their business. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table this issue and Scott from the Health Department and Jim and John Croy to work together to see what can be done. Commissioner Western seconded the motion to table and it passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE AQUATIC FACILITY: Tad Varga and Mark Green informed the Commissioners that they received the bids for the new aquatic facility late last week and the bids came in for more than the funds that the City has raised. The City raised \$4.26 million and they stated they are short for their funding by \$770,000.00. They would like to charge the same entry fee for County residents as they do City residents but at this point in time they will need to charge 30% higher rates for out of City residents. They are requesting the County pay a certain amount towards the aquatic facility so they can charge the same rates. They would like to see the County contribute a couple hundred thousand, if possible. The Commissioners stated that they are not able to make any decisions in regard to funding the project and asked that Tad Varga and Mark Green be put on the Council agenda for September 6, 2017.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMS DISPATCH: Randy Cokl, from the Town of South Whitley, spoke to the Commissioners in regard to the EMS dispatching in South Whitley. Randy stated that about eight months ago,

South Whitley signed a contract with Lutheran to utilize their ambulance for EMS services. They provided the Commissioners with benefits of an additional ambulance in South Whitley, brought forward specifics of implementing the plan for using Lutheran EMS and arranged for the Commissioners to meet with Lutheran directly and nothing has been done to move forward. Randy asked that the Commissioners do what the residents of South Whitley are asking for and allow the Sheriff's department to dispatch the Lutheran EMS for South Whitley. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that Parkview is willing to dispatch the Lutheran EMS and Lutheran acknowledges that the Parkview Dispatch is safe and effective. Randy stated that the Town of South Whitley is specifically asking for the Sheriff's Department to dispatch because they know the County, they know the residents, they know the landmarks and they are the first ones to take the emergency call. Randy specified that the County has the equipment, has the dispatchers, the first ones to get the call so why involve a middle man. Commissioner Schrumpf has a concern with having only two dispatchers at all times and when there is one dispatcher on EMD, that dispatcher needs to stay with that call at all times until a first responder arrives on the scene. At this point, if the other dispatcher is busy also, Schrumpf has heard dispatch tell the Sheriff's Department to stand by and it may be five or ten minutes that they have to stand by. Commissioner Amber asked why this decision is being made by the Commissioners when it is the Sheriff's dispatch and Commissioner Schrumpf stated it is because the County is under contract with Parkview.

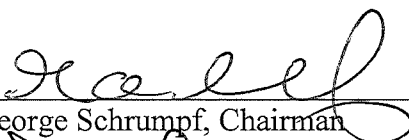
IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the August 7, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioner's reviewed the payroll claims. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from August 7, 2017 through August 21, 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.

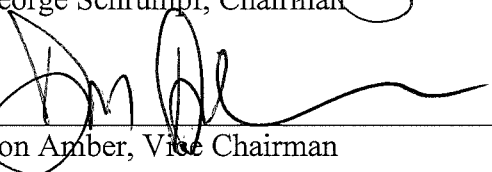
IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR: County Coordinator Pam Smith presented one request to use the County facilities to the Commissioners. The request was from Natalie Spain and the Downtown Business Alliance for the 2nd annual block party, historic walking tour and the art market on the square. This event would take place on Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. They would be using the Courthouse lawn and the sidewalk. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

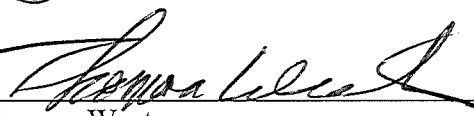
IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: County Attorney Matt Shipman reviewed the right-of-way permit request to bore under 7800 North Brown Road for irrigation. This permit request was from a private owner and not from a company. Matt reviewed the right-of-way permit and a hold harmless agreement is not needed because in the permit it states that the requestor assumes all responsibility for any injury or damage to persons and property resulting directly or indirectly from the work contemplated in the application. With the review of Attorney Shipman, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.


There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schrumpf, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


Thomas Western

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor