

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 5, 2023

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 1:00 PM in the Commissioner's Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center.

Commissioners in attendance were Chair Chad Banks, Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger and Commissioner Robert Schuman. Others in attendance were Attorney Matthew Shipman, Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Health Director Scott Wagner, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Sheriff Jason Spencer, Assessor Kim Erdly, Engineer Brad Allen, Coroner Scott Smith, Highway Director Ryan Getts, Leslie Blakely from Council on Aging, Kim & Todd Shepherd, Brad & Terri Parker, Randall Keller, Sonya Emerick and James Stanley.

Chair Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCIL ON AGING VEHICLE UPDATE AND VOUCHER APPROVAL: Leslie Blakely with Whitley County Council on Aging was present to give a vehicle updated and request the approval of the quarterly operating voucher as well as a vehicle voucher. The first claim voucher is for a vehicle that was finally received totaling \$105,500. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. Leslie let the Commissioners know that there will be an identical voucher for the second vehicle that they hope to receive this week or early next week and was hoping that the Commissioners could approve the request now and have Chad sign when the vehicle is received rather than wait until the next Commissioner meeting. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the pending voucher if the dollar amount is the same and nothing changes other than the invoice number, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second voucher requested was \$113,910 for the quarterly voucher. Baysinger made a motion to approve the quarterly voucher, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote.

VACATE RIGHT OF WAY DISCUSSION: Commissioners again discussed the vacation of right of way that was at a previous Commissioner meeting pertaining to Crescent Ave at Tri-Lakes. Schuman stated that he would like to see a better option that would allow more room for county vehicles as well as trailers that might need to turn around. All Commissioners agree that there needs to be a better plan in place and have requested that the petitioner speak with neighbors and the highway department to come up with a better solution for all. At this time the Commissioners have decided to take no action on this petition.

SEPTIC ORDINANCE: Health Director Scott Wagner was present to discuss the drafted septic ordinance that needs to be updated with the change of state law. With the new laws the local health department rules are no longer valid after July 1. Scott would like to come back at the next Commissioner meeting to get approval of the ordinance that will take place of four current ordinances so that he can then send it to the State for approval.

NOTICE OF VOTING LOCATIONS: Commissioners reviewed the voting locations for Clerk Cindy Doolittle. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the request as presented, with a second by Schuman and passed unanimously with a 3/0 vote.

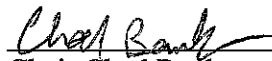
MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from August 22, 2023, through September 5, 2023, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Baysinger reviewed the claims and saw no issues. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the regular meeting minutes from the August 21, 2023, Baysinger made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schuman and carried with a 2/0 vote with Banks abstaining.


IN OTHER BUSINESS:

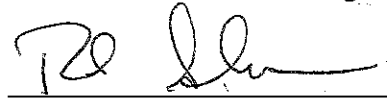
- James Stanley from the public spoke with Commissioners regarding scams that are targeting individuals that have paid off mortgages. These are like identity theft and wanted to raise awareness of the scams as well as ask for some sort of resolution to protect homeowners.
- Sonya Emerick wanted to know why the county did not opt in for the healthy first initiative that the state proposed. Commissioner Banks let her know that the Commissioners along with the health department had extensive conversations and decided that they will re-evaluate this again next year.
- Terri Parker wanted to let Commissioners know that she being one of the homeowners on Crescent Ave has no problem meeting with the neighbors to discuss other alternatives for this.
- Commissioner Baysinger wanted to again let the constituents know that the Broadband Committee is asking that everyone take the speed test so that we can show as a county that we are under served with broadband.

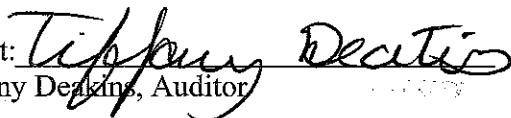
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:40 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chair Chad Banks


Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger


Commissioner Robert Schuman

Attest: 
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor