

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 18, 2024

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, November 18, 2024, 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 Rob Schuman, and Commissioner Theresa Baysinger. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Commissioners' Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Highway Director Ryan Getts, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Engineer Brad Allen, Leslie Blakley with Whitley County Council on Aging, Darcy Hoopingarner, Todd Geiger and Diana DuPont.

Chairman Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

HIGHWAY UPDATE: Highway Director Ryan Getts was present to give Commissioners a department update. Some items covered were the completion of the Community Crossings repaving of Lincolnway West, restriping of Raber Rd. from 14 to 114, the roadway in the area of 900 W just south of 400 S has been raised to help with flooding issues, and the department is ready for winter weather having their salt barn full and sanders on the trucks.

EDC UPDATE: Dale Buuck was present to give Commissioners an update on what has been happening with the EDC. Dale gave an overview of items that are currently in the works, including a broadband update.

PLAT APPROVAL: Planning & Building Director Nathan Bilger presented a plat to be approved.

- Bluebell Forest Hideaway is a 2-lot plat off S Meridian Rd just S of Keiser Rd. This was approved by the Plan Commission at their last meeting. Baysinger made a motion to approve the plat, seconded by Schuman and carried with a 3/0 vote.

HEALTH FIRST INDIANA CONTRACTS: Commissioners reviewed a contract with Bowen Health for the Health First Indiana funds. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the contract as presented, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

LAKELAND INTERNET FEASIBILITY STUDY: Commissioner Baysinger and Dale Buuck from the EDC gave an update on Lakeland Internet and the possibility of a funding request soon of around \$50,000. Currently there is no request for funding.

2024 EXTENSION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: Commissioners received the 2025 Memorandum of Understanding with the Purdue Extension Office. This is the same MOU that is received every year with only the dates and contractual amount being changed. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the MOU, with a second by Baysinger and

carried with a 3/0 vote. Todd Geiger was also present to give Commissioners and constituents an update from Purdue Extension and 4H.

CERTIFICATE SALE CONTRACT & RESOLUTION: Commissioners have reviewed the contract and resolution with SRI to hold a certificate sale in the spring. Attorney Boxberger has reviewed both and made a few changes to the resolution. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-18, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

TRANSFER OF JAIL PROPERTY/JAIL AGREEMENT: Commissioners have been working with the City of Columbia City to give the current jail property to them so that they can utilize the property as there is still usefulness of the building. Commissioner Banks wanted to remind constituents that the reason for the building of the new jail was not because of the building itself, but that Whitley County jail was consistently overcrowded. The City is currently doing a study to make sure that the property will work for them. The Columbia City Police Department is currently on all three levels of the City Hall building and this space would be a great way to make the Columbia City Police Department more efficient. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-19 which will also accept the agreement, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

VOUCHER APPROVAL & INDOT COMPLIANCE REVIEW: Leslie Blakley from Whitley County Council on Aging was present with a voucher for Commissioner approval. The voucher is for federal dollars in the amount of \$74,446. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote. Leslie also gave Commissioners an update regarding the INDOT compliance review that is currently happening at the transit. Auditor Deakins has been working with Leslie on this and will be visiting the site on Wednesday with Commissioner Baysinger for part of the review.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM: Commissioner Banks stated the Commissioners have received an MOU with Doug Stronczek regarding emergency drainage repair charges. The Commissioners felt that the County should pay for half of the \$3,545 job as the County has directed water to drain to this private tile. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the MOU, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

FACILITY REQUEST: Commissioners reviewed a facility request for Nikki Venable and the Whitley County Republican Party for January 1, 2025, for the swearing in of newly elected officials' ceremony. This will be on the main floor of the courthouse to have refreshments for the officials and their families. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the request as presented, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from November 5, 2024, through November 18, 2024, were reviewed by Commissioner Baysinger. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner

Baysinger made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the regular meeting minutes for November 4th. Schuman made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes, seconded by Baysinger, and carried with a 3/0 vote.

OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Schuman wanted to show the family of Steve Sickafoose condolences as he recently passed away. This is a great loss to the County as Steve has been a part of the County serving on boards for the past several years.

There being no further business and no comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:37 PM.

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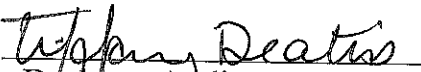
Chair Chad Banks



Vice Chair Robert Schuman



Commissioner Theresa Baysinger

Attest: 
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor

