

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 16, 2024

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 16, 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, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Julie Jensen-Kelley, Scott Clay, Mike Rowland and Diana DuPont.

Chairman Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 & REZONING REQUEST: Planning & Building Director Nathan Bilger presented a plat to be approved, as well as the tabled rezoning request.

- Zumbun Minor Subdivision, located off 200 S east of State Road 5. This was approved by the Plan Commission. Schuman made a motion to approve the plat, seconded by Baysinger and carried with a 3/0 vote.
- At the last meeting Commissioners tabled the rezoning requests for Jennifer and Jason Esterline. Jason spoke with Commissioners letting them know that he is working with a company from Pierceton regarding the driveway. Once the INDOT permit can be verified and Commissioners can review the approved list of uses Commissioners will vote on this, they are in support. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to table the request, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote to table.

HEALTH FIRST INDIANA CONTRACTS: Commissioners reviewed the last two contracts for Health First Indiana funds. Smith Green school for \$7,500 and Council on Aging for \$10,406.50. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the contracts as presented, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

UPDATED FACILITIES REQUEST FORM: Attorney Boxberger let Commissioners know that he has updated the verbiage on the policy for using government property to not approve facility requests more than 90 days before the requested use date. Banks stated that he has heard from someone that it could make it hard for planning and preparing if the venue has not been approved. Banks stated that he encourages individuals to assume the request will be approved, and they will have 90 days prior notification if not. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the updated policy as presented, with stating that she would like to remind individuals

to be as detailed as possible on the forms so that they do not get held up, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

EMS AGREEMENT: Commissioners have had the 3-year EMS Agreement for roughly 6 months and have had time to review. Attorney Boxberger had noticed in Indiana Code that the City of Columbia City is supposed to consent as well. The City has approved a resolution at their December 10th meeting agreeing to the EMS services. Banks stated that with this agreement there is also an escalation clause. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

ADDITIONAL ITEM: Highway Director Ryan Getts presented Commissioners with a bid packet for the two 2025 dump trucks that he will be moving forward with purchasing. Once signed and approved by Commissioners he can get the bid notice advertised. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the notice as presented, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

FACILITY REQUEST: Commissioners reviewed a facility request For December 24th from 6-7 pm using the Gazebo for Kay Dee's Joy. This will be to utilize the gazebo and play Christmas music. The form that was turned in is an old form, so Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve if a new form gets filled out, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from December 3, 2024, through December 16, 2024, were reviewed by Commissioner Schuman. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the regular meeting minutes for December 2nd. Schuman made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes, seconded by Baysinger, and carried with a 3/0 vote.

OTHER BUSINESS: Attorney Boxberger has submitted a draft to Commissioners for an updated fee schedule. Boxberger has asked department heads to verify their fees and then Commissioners can adopt the ordinance. This draft does also include the new fuel rates for the Highway. He is also working on a fuel agreement to be used for the Highway Department moving forward. He will have this at the next Commissioner meeting.

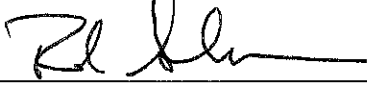
PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Commissioner Baysinger wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. There being no further business and no comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM.

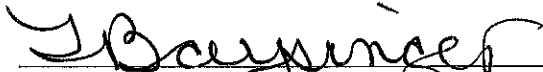
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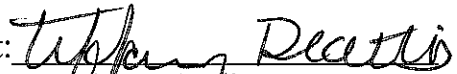


Chair Chad Banks



Vice Chair Robert Schuman


Commissioner Theresa Baysinger

Attest: 
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor

