

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2025

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, January 6, 2025, 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 Robert Schuman and Commissioner Theresa Baysinger. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Human Resources Director Jennifer Shinabery, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, County Highway Director Ryan Getts, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Veteran Service Officer Joshua Smith, Councilman Thomas Warner and David Johnson.

Chair Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Commissioner Banks opened the floor for a motion to nominate someone as Chair of the Commissioners, Banks stated that he has been chair for 3 years and would be willing to step aside to allow for someone else to be chair. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to nominate Commissioner Banks as Chair, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schuman nominated Commissioner Baysinger for Vice Chair, a second by Baysinger, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

2025 BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS: Commissioner Banks listed off the Commissioner's assignments starting with Schuman being on the Board of Finance, Drainage Board, EMA Board, Solid Waste Board, and Joint Advisory. Chad Banks will be assigned to the Board of Finance, EMS Committee, Plan Commission, Solid Waste Board, Economic Development Corporation Investment Board, and Historical Committee. Commissioner Baysinger has been assigned to the Board of Finance, Region 3A, Redevelopment Commission, Community Corrections Board and the Solid Waste Board. Commissioners reviewed the board appointments that need to be completed for 2025 and decided the below.

- Mike Hippenhammer is up for the Alcohol and Beverage Commission, he has attended meetings and done a great job. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to re-appoint Mike, seconded by Schuman passing with a 3/0 vote.
- Frank Kessler and Jon Myers are up for the Redevelopment Commission. Both have done a great job and Baysinger motioned to re-appoint both, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.
- Banks stated that he would continue to serve as the Commissioner appointment for the drainage board. Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.
- The Drainage Board has a vacancy with the loss of Steve Sickafoose. The Drainage Board has given a recommendation to Commissioners, however at this time

Commissioners do not feel that they can make an appointment as they have not spoken with the recommended person. Banks also wanted to let everyone know that just because someone was recommended does not guarantee that Commissioners will go with that recommendation as this is a Commissioner appointment.

- The Churubusco Library has a Crystal Wagner up for Commissioner re-appointment, however Commissioners would like to meet with her before re-appointing her.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE: Josh Smith, the Veteran Services Officer, gave Commissioners an update. For 2024 the Veteran Service Office has assisted approximately 300 veterans with several different tasks. Josh will be trying to get to more events within the community for 2025.

COUNTY FEE SCHEDULE UPDATES: This document will be ready for the next meeting.

FUEL CENTER AGREEMENT: Attorney Boxberger worked with Highway Director Ryan Getts on getting an agreement put together for all outside users of the fuel facility. All outside of County entities will pay \$.20 above cost. The document presented shows \$.10 over costs not \$.20. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the agreement with the amendment to change the \$.10 to \$.20 above cost, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

ROW PERMIT AND COMMUNITY CROSSINGS FINANCIAL COMMITMENT:

Highway Director Ryan Getts presented Commissioners with a ROW permit for NIPSCO at 1662 E Linker Rd for a possible road cut. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote. Ryan presented Commissioners with the 2025-1 Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund – Financial Commitment Letter. Getts is asking for 1.3 million of the 1.5 that could be awarded to leave for some room if asphalt prices go up.

PLAT APPROVAL: Planning Director Nathan Bilger was present for approval on two plats, and had asked to be on the agenda for two re-zonings but would like the re-zonings to be moved to the January 21st meeting.

- Piper Subdivision is a 1 lot plat in Gateway Industrial Park. This is a replat that moves the easement. Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.
- Rocky Acres is a replat off Stalf Road, this replat is so that lots can be sold and this replat adds right of way. Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from December 17, 2024, through January 6, 2025 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioners Baysinger and Schuman reviewed the claims and saw no issues. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed minutes from the December 16, 2024, regular meeting

minutes. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.


OTHER BUSINESS: Attorney Boxberger stated that his office had sent over the 2025 legal services agreement and did not see it on the agenda. Commissioners will review and approve the agreement at the January 20th meeting.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:24 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Chair Chad Banks



Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger



Commissioner Robert Schuman

Attest: 

Tiffany Deakins, Auditor

