

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 21, 2025

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 21, 2025, at 1:00 PM in the Commissioner's Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. The Commissioners in attendance were Chad Banks, Robert Schuman & Theresa Baysinger. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Commissioners' Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, HR Director Jennifer Shinabery, Rosemary Brown, Engineer Brad Allen, Highway Director Ryan Getts, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Solid Waste Director Tara Meyers and Stacey Dhell and Vicki Lootens from Easterseals.

Commissioner Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNITY CROSSINGS BID OPENING: Commissioners opened three bids for 2025 Community Crossings Matching Grant.

- 1ST Brooks - \$859,144.60
- Phend & Brown - \$1,281,128.15
- E & B Paving - \$1,505,916.20

After reviewing the bids, Commissioner Schuman made a motion to take the bids under advisement for Ryan to review, seconded by Baysinger, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

EDC UPDATE: Dale Buuck from the EDC was present to give Commissioners an update on broadband within Whitley County and some other items that he has been working on. Dale has not heard back regarding the broadband funding yet. Dale has been marketing Whitley County in other states and has heard great things about Indiana and the desire to bring companies to us. Dale shared some potential opportunities for business growth within Whitley County.

EASTERSEALS NORTHERN INDIANA UPDATE: Stacey Dhell and Vicki Lootens from Easterseals were present to give Commissioners an update. Easterseals is currently understaffed by 16 positions within Whitley County and is looking for individuals to help fill those vacancies. An update was made on the sites within Whitley County as well as letting Commissioners know that the funding that comes from the County is used on operational expenses.

PAYLOCITY AGREEMENT: Attorney Boxberger stated that the agreement is still not ready, and they hope to have that for the May 5th meeting.

DEDICATION OF ROW & PLAT APPROVAL: Nathan Bilger presented a dedication of right of way to Commissioners for approval. This was originally thought to need to be a subdivide plat, however it was decided that it did not need to be. There still needs to be a deed

of dedication to deed the public right of way to the County. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote. Nathan also presented Commissioners with a replat of Lee Jacobs Addition located off of N 900 E in Churubusco to allow for another house to be built in a new lot. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: Commissioners have reviewed the 2026 holiday schedule. Banks stated that with 2026 being an election year there are additional days that will be included. Baysinger made a motion to approve the 2026 holiday schedule, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote.

2024 HIGHWAY ANNUAL REPORT: Highway Director Ryan Getts was present to answer any questions that the Commissioners may have regarding the 2024 annual highway report. Getts stated that this is vital to receive grant funding as well as continuing to receive wheel and surtax funds. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote.

WHITLEY COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT: Solid Waste Director Tara Meyers was present to give valuable information to Commissioners and constituents regarding the Solid Waste District, and what you as a Whitley County resident can benefit from. Solid Waste is holding a tire amnesty event that will run from April 28th until May 10th during normal business hours, this will allow for Whitley County residents to turn in up to 25 tires that are less than 20 inches for free. There are several other benefits that are offered and can be found by visiting their website at <https://www.whitleycounty.in.gov/> then looking up recycling under departments or calling 260-248-3132.

FACILITY REQUESTS: Commissioners reviewed one facility request.

1. DJ Greg, Greg Short would like to utilize the gazebo and courthouse lawn on May 1st from 5-8 pm. After discussion it was decided that the County was not in favor of the request because of some criminal destruction of property that the County received from this individual. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to deny the request, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from April 8, 2025, through April 21, 2025, were reviewed by Commissioner Baysinger. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Schuman and passed 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 of April 7, 2025. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

OTHER BUSINESS: Attorney Boxberger will be working on a policy for disposal of government property that's value is under the \$1,000-\$1,500 threshold. Auditor Deakins stated that the 2024 County audit is underway and that there will be some changes made to tax

deductions coming from the State, and when those get communicated, she will make sure to let constituents know as they will affect the taxes that will be paid in 2026. Commissioner Banks wanted to thank all of the law enforcement personnel that assisted with an incident on Sunday April 20th.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:50 PM.


WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair Chad Banks


Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger


Commissioner Robert Schuman

Attest:


Tiffany Deakins, Auditor

