

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 19, 2025

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 19, 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, Theresa Baysinger and Rob Schuman. Others in attendance were Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Commissioners' Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, HR Director Jennifer Shinabery, Highway Director Ryan Getts, Julie Jensen-Kelley with Community Corrections, Karli Hendry with Circuit Court, Health Director Scott Wagner, James Johnson with Council on Aging, Probation Director Ed Beber, Probation Officer Jennifer Christie, Amy Bechtold with Superior Court, Coroner Scott Smith, Purdue Extension Director Todd Geiger, Jacki Bishop with Purdue Extension, John Woodmansee with Purdue Extension, Stacy Geiger with Purdue Extension, Brittney Schori with Purdue Extension, Candy Sroufe with Purdue Extension, Kim Arnold, Diane Wolf, Ronda Sroufe, Craig Sroufe, Karen Hull, Kevin Ousley, Cheryl Stalter, Eric Smith, and Garrett Geiger.

Commissioner Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CORPORATE CHALLENGE REQUEST:** Julie Jensen-Kelley with Community Corrections was present to request the County be able to participate in the Whitley County Corporate Challenge hosted by the YMCA. This is something the County has done every year for some time now and all employees are welcome to participate. The cost to participate in this program is \$500. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

**2026 INDOT APPLICATION:** James Johnson with Whitley County Council on Aging was present to go over the 2026 INDOT application. Johnson presented multiple forms that needed approved. Johnson explained each form to the Commissioners.

- Categorical Exclusion Classification of Capital Projects Checklist
- Pass Through Agreement
- Certification of Use of Project Equipment & Facilities
- Resolution 2025-02
- Local Financial Certification & Capital Assurance
- Labor Warranty Continuation

Attorney Andrew Boxberger stated he was unable to see the full agreements and would like to look at them before they were signed. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the Categorical Exclusion Agreement contingent on legal review, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the Pass-Through Agreement contingent on legal review, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner

Baysinger made a motion to approve the Certification of Use of Project Equipment & Facilities Agreement contingent on legal review, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-02 contingent on legal review, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the Local Financial Certification & Capital Assurance contingent on legal review, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the Labor Warranty Agreement contingent on legal review, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

**PLAT APPROVAL:** Planning & Building Director Nathan Bilger presented a 1 lot plat on Sheldon Rd called Classic Acres. The Health Department and Engineer Office had some concerns that were straightened out. Commissioner Schuman motioned to approve the plat, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

**BRIDGE INSPECTION AGREEMENT:** Engineer Brad Allen presented the Bridge Inspection Agreement with USSI. Attorney Boxberger made some changes to the agreement and feels confident that USSI will accept the agreement as he has worked with the company before on similar agreements. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to accept the agreement contingent on them accepting the changes, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

**COMMUNITY CROSSINGS MATCHING GRANT BID ACCEPTANCE:** Highway Director Ryan Getts presented the Community Crossings bid and recommended the lowest bid from Phend and Brown. Commissioner Baysinger motioned to accept the Community Crossings Matching Grant Bid from Phend & Brown, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

**FACILITY REQUESTS:** Commissioners reviewed facility requests.

1. Whitley County Pride would like to use the Courthouse lawn, however the date for the request is past the 90-day policy. Commissioner Baysinger motioned to table the request until next month, seconded by Schuman, passed with a 3/0 vote.
2. Beth Turner with the Elks Lodge would like to use the Courthouse Lawn for Flag Day ceremony on June 14<sup>th</sup> from 10-12pm. The Maintenance Department, EMA and Security have no issues with the request. Commissioner Baysinger motioned to approve the request, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.
3. Vivian Sade with the Whitley County Democratic Party would like to use the Courthouse Square on Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup> from 1-3pm for a peaceful protest. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.


**MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The claim distributions from May 5, 2025, through May 19, 2025, were reviewed by Commissioner Baysinger. 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 the regular meeting minutes of May 5, 2025. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes, seconded by

Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote with Banks abstaining. The Commissioners reviewed the May 13 Commissioner & Council Joint meeting minutes. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

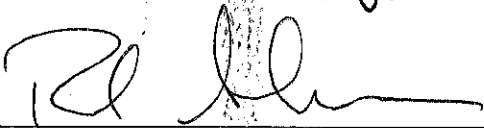
**PUBLIC COMMENT:** John Woodmansee with Purdue Extension explained his concerns about the discussion of moving the Extension office and would like to see a solution for Probation that does not involve moving the Extension department. Purdue Extension Director Todd Geiger expressed his concerns as well.

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

### WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Chair Chad Banks

  
Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger

  
Commissioner Robert Schuman

Attest:   
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor

