

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 2, 2025

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, June 2, 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, Assessor Kim Erdly, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Engineer Brad Allen, Highway Director Ryan Getts, Sheriff Spencer & Chief Deputy Cook, Director Paula Worden & Julie Jensen-Kelley from Community Corrections, Chief Probation Officer Ed Beber & Jennifer Christie from Probation, Todd Geiger From Purdue Extension, VSO Officer Joshua Smith, Solid Waste Joint Board President Don Amber, Mark Sturtevant, Karli Hendry, Rick Hamilton, Joe Leazier, Mike Zolman, Randi Sroufe, Kevin O and Lori Elfrio.

Commissioner Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER UPDATE: Veteran Service Officer Josh Smith was present to give an update. Smith stated that they had 241 veterans who were in contact with the office with over 50% of them being walk-ins. Smith has been doing some local events at the school and will continue to do so over the year. Commissioner Banks stated that June is PTSD Awareness month and stated that a good place to start if you need help is with your local Veteran Services Officer.

SOLID WASTE JOINT BOARD REPORT: Don Amber, President of the Joint Solid Waste Board was present to give Commissioners information from a memo/report that was compiled by the board. Highlights include the board does not feel that an increase to the curbside collection fee is recommended, the Treasurers Office collected 96% of fees for 2024, there are no pending lawsuits, and the board recommends Commissioners, and the Solid Waste Board look at possibly upping the fee that is charged by the County for collections.

EXTENSION/PROBATION TRANSITION: Commissioners discussed the Probation and Extension Office's transition of moving locations. Commissioners stated their own reasons that they feel this should or should not happen. Commissioners also stated that they know the County Council is not in favor of spending funds to rent or purchase a building to allow for other options. Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant stated that there will be some costs approximately \$50,000-\$75,000 to make both buildings suitable for the move. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the Extension Office be moved into the basement of the Government Center and Probation to Branch Court, seconded by Banks, passing with a 2/1 vote, with Schuman voting against.

JAVS CONTRACT: Commissioners and Attorney Boxberger have reviewed the JAVS Contract and feel that after some changes it is appropriate to sign. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

MICROPULSE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT: Attorney Boxberger let Commissioners know that the agreement mirrors the agreement that was signed in 2024 with the only change being the date of completion. Micropulse wanted to complete the work in 2024, however the work will now be completed in 2025. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

DONATION FUNDS: Community Corrections Director Paula Worden was present to seek Commissioner approval to move forward with creating donation funds for Community Corrections. She would like to be able to collect donations both restricted and unrestricted to allow assisting with funding. Commissioners think this is a great idea and gave their blessing to work with Attorney Boxberger in getting an ordinance created to allow for this. Boxberger stated that this should be completed by the next meeting.

PLAT APPROVAL: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented Commissioners with a replat of Forrest South located off S 700 E to split off a piece of land to allow for a new building to be built in a new lot. Plan Commission has approved the request after a few changes. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

DFI BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS: Julie Jensen-Kelley with Drug Free Indiana presented the budget recommendations from the DFI Finance Committee. Julie stated these funds come from a fee that is collected from substance abuse offenders through the Clerk's Office. Schuman made a motion to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Baysinger and carried with a 3/0 vote.

BRIDGE INSPECTION CONTRACT: Engineer Brad Allen wanted to verify that Commissioners received the DocuSign for INDOT to sign the Bridge Inspection Contract. Commissioners have received this and it has been signed as it was approved at the last meeting.

ROW PERMIT & STRIPING ORDINANCE: Highway Director Ryan Getts was present to get approval for a ROW Permit from NIPSCO regarding a possible road cut. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote. Engineer Brad Allen stated that there was some confusion regarding the need for an ordinance at this time pertaining to the INDOT grant that was awarded. The engineering phase is all covered with County funds. Commissioners will review the ordinance at a later date once the funds are awarded.

FACILITY REQUESTS: Commissioners reviewed one facility request.

1. Savannah Fettig is asking to use the Courthouse lawn for a Pride event on September 20th from 1-10, with approximately 700 attendees. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

Attorney Boxberger made some changes to the current facility request policy to state that under certain circumstances approval can be made for certain requests, as well as added that specified departments review the requests before Commissioner approval. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the amended policy, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

Attorney Boxberger amended meeting minutes from April 7th to better explain the policy that was approved for facility requests. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the amended meeting minutes, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from May 20, 2025, through June 2, 2025, were reviewed by Commissioners Schuman and 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 19th, 2025. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

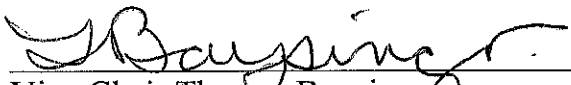
- Auditor Tiffany Deakins asked if Commissioners had received her e-mail regarding the BakerTilly Agreement to allow them to report the required bond information to EMMA. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.
- Deakins let Commissioners know that they have received pre-approval for spring settlement in record time for 2025. Treasurer Kay Gatton and Deakins will distribute funds to taxing units now that approval has been granted.
- The 2024 State Board of Accounts audit is almost completed as well for the County.
- Commissioner Schuman stated that he may not agree with the outcome from today's meeting, but he is glad that a solution could be made, even if all Commissioners do not agree.
- Commissioner Baysinger wanted to remind constituents that if they were awarded grant funding for internet assistance, they need to make sure to sign the paperwork that was sent to them either online or send in the paper copy. If they do not sign the paperwork, they will not receive assistance. Baysinger also wanted to thank Cami Hippenhammer for the work that she has done as Commissioners' Assistant and ask that with her leaving to fill another County position that anyone who is interested in being the Commissioners' Assistant fill out an application on the County website.
- Commissioner Banks stated that Commissioners would like to move forward with creating an ordinance or something so that a yield sign can be added to the area of 350 E and 500 N. Commissioners would like to have more signage in this area as it has had many close


calls. Highway Director Ryan Getts will work with Attorney Boxberger in getting this completed.

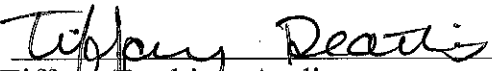
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:40 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chair Chad Banks


Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger


Commissioner Robert Schuman

Attest: 
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor