

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 7, 2025

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, July 7, 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 Chair Chad Banks, Vice-Chair Theresa Baysinger & Robert Schuman. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Attorney Boxberger, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Health Director Scott Wagner, Councilman Thomas Warne, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Assessor Kim Erdly, Sheriff Jason Spencer, Chief Deputy Cook, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Karli Hendry from Circuit Court and Amy Bechtold from Superior Court, Jennifer Bippus, Julie Garwood and Allie Daugherty.

Commissioner Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BID OPENING:** Assessor Kim Erdly gave a brief description as to what the bid opening was for. Bids were collected for the years 2026-2030 for the 4-year reassessment cycle. Two bids were submitted and opened during the meeting. Currently Whitley County utilizes Nexus. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to take the bids under advisement, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

1. Vision Gov Services total for the 4 years would be \$662,140.
2. Nexus total for the 4 years would be \$527,100.

**YTD REPORT FOR WHITLEY COUNTY TRANSIT:** No one from Whitley County Council on Aging was present.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DONATION FUND:** Community Corrections Director Paula Worden was present to have two donation funds set up, a restricted and unrestricted fund so that her department can collect donations. Attorney Boxberger has worked with Paula to create Ordinance 2025-09 that establishes the two funds. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve, waiving the second reading, seconded by Schuman and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM:** Commissioner Banks stated that Commissioners have received a conflict-of-interest form from Tamela Tincher. The form is for Tamela's spouse that has completed work for the County in the past and has recently completed some flooring and would be receiving compensation. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

**SEWER ORDINANCE:** Health Director Scott Wagner has been working with Attorney Boxberger, getting a sewer ordinance completed. Commissioners have received Ordinance 2025-10 for review. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-10 and waiving the second reading, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.

**REZONING REQUESTS:** Brent Bockelman was present from the Planning & Building Department to seek approval for two rezoning requests.

1. 25-W-REZ-2 is a request that came with a favorable pass from the Plan Commission to change the classification from AG to RR for a property that contains approximately 3.68 acres located on the west side of 700 East, south of 800 South. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-11, seconded by Schuman, passing with a 3/0 vote.
2. 25-W-REZ-3 is a request that came with a favorable pass from the Plan Commission to change the Classification from IPM to GC for a property that contains approximately 16.325 acres in section 3 of Smith Township, with an address of 6430 N 650 E. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-12, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

**FACILITY REQUESTS:** Commissioners reviewed one facility request.

1. Columbia City Connect is requesting to hold a car show on the courthouse lawn on August 2 from 4-9 pm. Commissioners are not in favor of allowing vehicles on the courthouse lawn and would be in favor of the request if it were held around the courthouse, not on the lawn. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to deny the request, seconded by Schuman, carrying with a 3/0 vote.

**ADDITIONAL ITEM:** Commissioner Banks stated that there was an additional agenda item, he has been having conversations regarding the VHF equipment that is currently at the old jail location and wanted to seek a blessing from the other Commissioners to continue conversations about relocating the tower to the Highway Department. Sheriff Spencer stated the equipment is technically owned by the townships and the Sheriff's Department would pay the maintenance costs. Commissioners are in favor of Banks getting more information and pricing to see what the costs would be to move the tower and realign them as well.

**MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The claim distributions from June 17, 2025, through July 7, 2025, were reviewed by Commissioner Schuman. 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 two sets of minutes the regular meeting minutes of June 16th, 2025, and the special meeting that was held June 16<sup>th</sup> in the morning. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote. 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 mentioned that the 2024 audit was finally completed, as well as let Commissioners know that the DLGF has opened up the budget site for Gateway, and that she will keep everyone posted on any numbers or information that come through from the State.
- Commissioner Schuman let constituents know that the 4-H fair will be starting on July 11<sup>th</sup>.


There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 1:34 PM.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Chair Chad Banks

  
Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger

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Commissioner Robert Schuman

Attest:   
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor