

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 15, 2025

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 15, 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 Theresa Baysinger and Commissioner Robert Schuman; Commissioner Stacey Petrovas was absent. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Attorney Boxberger, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Health Director Scott Wagner, Commissioners' Assistant Angela Brown, HR Director Jennifer Shinabery, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Highway Director Ryan Getts, Amy Bechtold, Dale Buuck and Abbey Anthony with the EDC and Councilman Thomas Warner.

Chair Baysinger opened the regular meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

EDC UPDATE: EDC Director Dale Buuck was present to give Commissioners an update for what's going on in Whitley County. Dale stated that he is pleasantly surprised that even though it is the holidays and most things are slowing down that he has some exciting things in the works for Whitley County and Columbia City. He can't go into too much detail but there are a couple properties in the county that are currently being looked at for businesses to move into, and there are a few things in the works for Columbia City as well. Dale will be going before the council at their January meeting with Surf Broadband to ask for a personal property abatement. Surf will be putting an estimated \$10 million dollars of their own funds into this, and he thinks an abatement would be an appropriate request.

HIGHWAY ANNUAL BID ACCEPTANCE: Highway Director Ryan Getts was present with his recommendations for the 2026 annual bids. There were a few that he chose to reject and all the others he would like to accept. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the recommendations as presented, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote. Ryan also gave a brief update about his guys and the work they have completed so far for snow removal for the county.

PLAN COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS: Commissioners have reviewed the board reappointments for the Plan Commission. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the board reappointments below, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote.

- Kim Kurtz-Seslar for the Whitley County Plan Commission
- Joe Wolf for the Whitley County Plan Commission
- Mark Johnson for the Whitley County Plan Commission

S 300 E BRIDGE NOTICE TO BIDDERS: Engineer Brad Allen presented Commissioners with a notice to bidders' packet for the bridge on S 330 E that goes over the Eel River, also known

as bridge 51. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote.

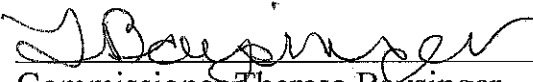
CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORMS: Commissioners reviewed a conflict-of-interest form for Jennifer Stephenson for the purchase of several invoices' worth of items from Shoes & More, a store that she is part-owner of. The invoices total \$2,188. Schuman made a motion to approve, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote.


MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from December 2, 2025, through December 15, 2025, were reviewed by Commissioner Schuman. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Baysinger, and passed with a 2/0 vote. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Baysinger, and passed with a 2/0 vote. Commissioners reviewed the meeting minutes from the December 1st meeting. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote.

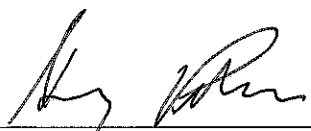
Commissioner Baysinger wanted to let everyone know that Commissioner Petrovas' picture was hung up and Commissioners felt that with the number of years that Commissioner Banks served the county they wanted to keep his picture hung. It has been moved by the TV in front of the room, and it will stay there. Commissioners wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and will see everyone next year.

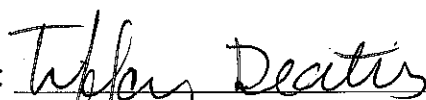
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Baysinger adjourned the meeting at 1:13 PM.

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Commissioner Theresa Baysinger


Commissioner Robert Schuman


Commissioner Stacey Petrovas

Attest: 
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor