

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 20, 2026

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 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 Robert Schuman, Stacey Petrovas and Theresa Baysinger. Others in attendance were Attorney Boxberger, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Health Director Scott Wagner, Commissioners' Assistant Angela Brown, HR Director Jennifer Shinabery, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Assessor Kim Erdly, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Engineer Brad Allen, Highway Director Ryan Getts, Amy Bechtold with Superior Court, Karli Hendry with Circuit Court, Dale Buuck with the EDC, Jay & Jennifer Esterline, Josh Smith, Ed Scott & Brandon Rittenhouse with EMA, Mark McCoy with RL McCoy, Gwyneth Murrey with MBC, and James Stanley.

Chair Schuman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD OF FINANCE ANNUAL MEETING: Chair Schuman suspended the regular Commissioner meeting to hold the Board of Finance annual meeting. Commissioner Baysinger motioned to approve January 21, 2025, meeting minutes, seconded by Petrovas, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Petrovas motioned to make Schuman the chair, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to appoint Kay Gatton as secretary of the Board of Finance, seconded by Petrovas, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Treasurer Kay Gatton was able to obtain \$2,067,453.73 in interest in 2025. Gatton stated she has noticed a decline in rates. Baysinger made a motion to accept the policy and interest, seconded by Petrovas, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schuman closed the Board of Finance meeting at 1:06 pm.

BRIDGE 51 REPLACEMENT BID OPENING: Chair Schuman opened the bid meeting for the Bridge 51 replacement. Bids were turned in by Miller Brothers Construction for \$736,065.88, RL McCoy Incorporated for \$651,237.94 and Milestone Contractors for \$814,813.19. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to accept the bids under advisement, seconded by Petrovas and passed with a 3/0 vote.

Chair Schuman opened the regular Commissioners' meeting at 1:08pm.

2026 BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Commissioner Schuman stated that the term for Mike Schrader on the Drainage board was up along with Mike Hippenhammers term on the Alcoholic Beverage Commission Board. Both members are willing to serve another term on the board. Commissioner Petrovas made a motion to reappoint Mike Schrader to the Drainage Board, seconded by Baysinger, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Petrovas made a motion to reappoint Mike Hippenhammer to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission Board, seconded by Baysinger, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

BRIDGE 41 REPLACEMENT AGREEMENT: Engineer Brad Allen presented a contract for bridge 41 replacement with RL McCoy Incorporated. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Petrovas, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

MICROVOTE CONTRACT: Clerk Cindy Doolittle presented a contract with Microvote. Attorney Boxberger mentioned this is a 4-year contract but isn't automatically renewed. Boxberger also noticed a mistake in the language, stating that the agreement is entered into by the Council and is appropriated by the Commissioners. The language needs to state that the agreement is entered into by the Commissioners and the funds are appropriated by the Council. Commissioner Petrovas made a motion to accept the agreement subject to the changes, seconded by Baysinger, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

EDC REPORT: EDC Director Dale Buuck was present to give a monthly update. Buuck has been following several bills that will affect the state, county and tax structure. Things have been quiet with the holidays. There are some companies looking to open some small businesses in Whitley County in the near future using the revolving loan fund.

ROW APPROVAL: Highway Director Ryan Getts was present for approval of a right-of-way permit application from Woll Family Farm. This was already approved some time ago, but due to the time lapse Getts thought it would be best to get another approval. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the ROW request, seconded by Petrovas, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

OUT OF STATE TRAINING: Community Corrections Director Paula Worden presented an out-of-state travel request. It was recommended that they attend the national conference in Nashville. Community Corrections does not have this in their budget, so they submitted a grant request from the Community Foundation, and it was awarded. Julie Jensen-Kelley, Amy Motter and Elizabeth McIntosh will be the staff attending. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Petrovas, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from January 6, 2026, through January 20, 2026, were reviewed by Commissioner Baysinger. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Petrovas, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Petrovas, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioners reviewed the meeting minutes from the January 5th meeting. Commissioner Petrovas made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 3/0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

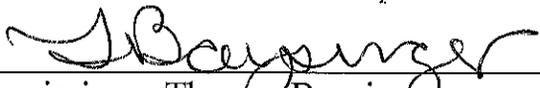
- James Stanley from South Whitley spoke on his concerns for the safety of Whitley County residents and wanted to make sure the County has a plan in case of a disaster or event as well as how often we update and review such plans. EMA director Ed Scott was present to

inform everyone that the County does have a plan, and they try to meet biannually to look at the top threats to Whitley County as well as whether we are prepared for such threats.

- Jennifer Esterline would like to state that she made a public records request for a meeting that she stated was held between 2 commissioners and a BZA board member. She stated that Attorney Boxberger did respond to her, letting her know that she would receive a response in a reasonable amount of time. Esterline was wondering what the time frame was for a response. Attorney Boxberger stated she would have a response this week.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Schuman adjourned the meeting at 1:43 PM.

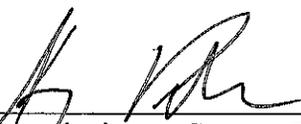
WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Commissioner Theresa Baysinger



Commissioner Robert Schuman



Commissioner Stacey Petrovas

Attest: 

Tiffany Deakins, Auditor

