

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 4, 2014

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 4, 2014 at 1:00pm in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Vice Chair Don Amber and Tom Rethlake. Chairman George Schrumpf was absent. Others in attendance, Dan Sigler- County Attorney, Auditor Jennifer McGuire, County Coordinator- Pam Smith, Michael Barton, Richard Eckert & Gene Rohrer – Veteran Service, Alan Tio – EDC, Greg Stalcup – Sites, Gary Kaufman- Targamite, Stanley Crum, Mary Hartman- Peabody Library, Katie Wagner – Churubusco News, Christie Workman – Post & Mail and Joan Null.

Vice Chairman Amber opened the meeting with the pledge.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: County Attorney, Dan Sigler, reported his representation at the Court Hearing for the Tax Sale issue with Auditor McGuire. Sigler followed up with briefs to the Judge and is waiting on a Final Determination of the bidder not following the procedure steps in the redemption process and complying with the IC statue requirements for the issuance of an actual Tax Sale deed from the Judge. Sigler will complete a new "corrected legal" deed for the State of Indiana for the DNR property on Fish Hatchery Road. The Reassessment Contract with Accurate Assessments needs to be redone per the State DLGF Attorney Michael Duffy. Attorney Sigler will review any changes and give his approval before the Commissioner sign the final Contract again.

IN THE MATTER OF EDC REQUEST: Alan Tio, EDC, presented two new proposals to the Commissioners for approval. The first project is for SMed-Ops, LLC which is a new division of Sites Medical LLC for expanding the testing services and prototype manufacturing capabilities. The new project will create up to 45 new full-time jobs at an average wage of \$21.15 per hour. The EDC Investment Board recommends \$100,000 in Revolving Loan Funds from the CEDIT based Growth Venture Fund. The second project is for a new company Targamite, LLC to locate in Whitley County to establish a robotics research and development center to expand a robotic target system. This company plans to create up to 27 new fulltime positions. The EDC Investment Board recommends \$50,000 from CEDIT-Based incentive and \$50,000 from the RLF Growth Venture Fund for this project. A discussion with both representatives Gary Kaufman from Targamite and Greg Stalcup from Sites, each giving the backgrounds of their company and forecasting when each phase would be completed for each project. Rethlake made a motion to give a favorable recommendation to the County Council for both of these project requests, seconded by Amber and carried with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY HIGHWAY: Michael Barton, Highway Director, gave an update on the truck bids and using the prior year's bid is going to be a cost savings for the new purchase. Time for patching potholes will use some of the sealing funds for the Summer milling projects and will have to be reviewed as the snow melts. Some equipment and supplies will be borrowed from other Counties because of the shortage, but when our supply comes in it will be returned to the other County or delivered to their location by the vendor.

IN THE MATTER OF THE VSO LOCATION: Gene Rohrer and Richard Eckert, VSO office, updated the Commissioners on the cost to move to a new location. Furniture and desk from the Assessor and Auditor's offices will help eliminate the extra cost. Jim Becher, County IT, will need to look into finding another computer for the location and Butch Sterner will be installing the Ethernet drops in the office. Both Rohrer and Eckert will be gone for State required Certification Training on March 31- April 4, 2014 and the office will be closed.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Minutes from the February 18, 2014 Commissioner's meeting were reviewed, Rethlake made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Amber and carried with a 2/0 vote. The disbursement of claims reports for March 3, 2014 was reviewed by Commissioner Amber. After discussion on some of the claims, a motion to allow the claims was made by Rethlake seconded by Amber and carried with a 2/0 vote.

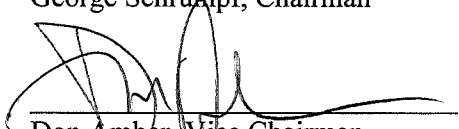
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONER UPDATES: Commissioner Rethlake wanted everyone to know that the information on the bypass around Columbia City has not been presented to the Commissioners for review. This information is all coming from the State at this time and no contact with the County has been made to go ahead with this project.


IN OTHER BUSINESS: Brandon Forrester gave an update on the road closures because of bridges and wanted to make sure the media had all the correct information. The Vehicle Inventory report for January 2014 was distributed from Sheriff Hodges. Auditor McGuire stated the Abstract was approved by the State Auditor's office for the tax collection of 2013 pay 2014 and tax bills will be going out on time for Spring collection.

With no further input from the public, Vice Chairman Amber adjourned the meeting.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

 Absent
George Schrumppf, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


Tom Rethlake

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor