

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 5, 2011

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 5, 2011 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Tom Rethlake, Vice Chairman Don Amber and George Schrumpf. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Jen McGuire, Amy Crickmore, Otto Boschett, Alan Tio, Michael Barton, Karin Witmer, Frank Sklenar, Chelsea Behm, Stanley Crum, Joan Null, Lt. Tony Castro and Sheriff Mark Hodges.

Tom Rethlake called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Pledge the Allegiance was done.

IN THE MATTER PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Minutes from the regular June 20th, 2011 meeting were reviewed and a motion made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf for approval and carried with a 2/0 vote. Rethlake abstained from vote. After reviewing claims for July 5, 2011 a motion was made by Schrumpf for approval, seconded by Amber and allowed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER APPOINTMENT TO LIBRARY BOARD: The Commissioners were notified that their appointment, David Mullins, has resigned from the Library Board of Trustees for the Peabody Public Library. The library director Janet Scank requested the Commissioners to appoint Gregory Hockemeyer to replace him. After discussion a motion was made by Amber to appoint Greg Hockemeyer to the Peabody Public Library, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER NOVAE: Alan Tio from Economic Redevelopment discussed the County's part in incentives for the Novae Corporation to purchase the Columbia Brown property and bring the taxes current. The closing for the purchase should be within four to six weeks. The County will be forgiving an estimate of \$23,000 in tax penalties, but in working with Columbia City will be bringing the taxes current and collecting \$99,930 in back taxes and outstanding liens.

IN THE MATTER OF SHOOTING RANGE: Sheriff Hodges and Lt. Tony Castro from the Indiana State Police presented information to the Commissioners about the Shooting Range in Whitley County located on Hiler Rd. They were requesting \$10,000 of CEDIT monies to help with the construction of the project which would go towards construction of the baffle work needed done between the REMC poles. Questions and concerns regarding the hours of operation, noise for surrounding neighbors and the security of the location. The hours of operation will be from 8am until 9pm with Winter hours. Need to check on the original zoning done in 2006 when the project was approved and verify still ok with all the surrounding neighbors. No ammunition will be stored at the location. Later construction of a pole barn will house a tractor and brush hog to maintain the grounds. After discussion the motion to grant the request was tabled for two weeks to check on the permit and zoning with Building and Planning Department.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY LINE ROAD: Frank Sklenar came before the Commissioners to submit a complaint about a dip in the entrance to his road. Mr. Sklenar was not happy with the cooperation he was getting from the Highway department about his complaint since September 2010 and three times since then. The main reason for the dip is a Nipsco gas line and two fiber optic cables. Commissioner Amber is going to work with the Highway and Nipsco to correct the problem.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY: Michael Barton reported to the Commissioners on the sell of Highway equipment at the County auction. Commissioner Amber questioned about the general public being able to email complaints on the Whitley Gov Website directly to the Highway.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR: Amy Crickmore brought before the request for the use of the Courthouse for the New Year's Eve Party for the Chamber of Commerce, the request was tabled from the prior meeting and after discussion, a motion to deny the use was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Amy requested the payment of medical bills for an employee that was denied Worker's Comp in the amount of \$739.25. A motion to pay the claims from the Trust was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Also discussed was the back pay for Overtime for the Prosecutor's office, with further discussion in regards to all Overtime being approved by Supervisor before actual work done by an employee. The Whitley County Domestic Violence Task Force (WCDVTF) wanted to be included on the Whitley County Website, a motion to allow was given by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

OTHER BUSINESS: County was notified by Travelers on their Insurance Proposal for 2012 to submit a 10% increase for next year’s budget. Commissioners were notified by the Department of Local Government and Finance that Whitley County’s ratio study was approved for 2011 pay 2012. Thank you for the Concerned Citizens of Whitley County for their presentation at ISMS on Wind Energy. Request for a Speed Limit Change on 300 north to 30mph being looked into. County attorney Dan Sigler working on the Golf Cart Ordinance, discussion of cost of permits and restrictions. Joint Meeting with County Council on EMS funding with Parkview hospital.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tom Rethlake, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

George Schrumpf

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor