

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
September 19, 2011

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, September 19, 2011 in the Meeting Room located in the basement of the South Whitley Public Library. Commissioners in attendance were Tom Rethlake, Don Amber and George Schrumpf. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Dan Sigler, Robert Bishir, Terrie Bishir, Otto Boschet Jr, Bob Lancaster, Renee Wozniak-Anderson, Sheriff Hodges, Marcus Gatton, James Thomlison and Mark Mynhier

Commissioner Rethlake called the Commissioner meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF THE GOLF CART ORDINANCE: County attorney Dan Sigler updated the Commissioner's that the County golf cart ordinance conflicted with State laws. At this time no County has the authority to implement such ordinance as the municipalities are allowed to allow golf carts to be driven on the County roadways. As to date no permits have been given out by the Sheriff's department. It will take a change in state legislation for the Ordinance to be allowed. At this time golf carts are not considered a motorized vehicle per State codes. The Ordinance will remain on the County books so if any changes to the State laws it can be implemented in the future years.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Sigler reported to the Commissioner's that the contract between Sheriff Hodges and the County should have been updated when he started his second term after being elected. Sheriff Hodges will give a proposal for any changes regarding meal allowances, tax warrants, wage increases and insurance adjustments to the Council for approval, it will also have to be signed with Chairman Rethlake from the Commissioner's. Commissioner Rethlake asked Attorney Sigler for an update on the Parkview Contract and the extension to the existing Contract with Parkview to run through the end of 2011. Sigler will report on these two matters in the next meeting.

IN THE MATTER MINUTES: Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the Minutes from the August 29, 2011 Executive Meeting, seconded by Schrumpf and carried for approval with a 3/0 vote. After reviewing the minutes from the regular Commissioner's meeting September 6, 2011 a motion for approval by Amber seconded by Schrumpf and carried 3/0.

IN THE MATTER 2012 COUNTY HOLIDAY CALENDAR: The Commissioner's tabled the approval for the Holiday Calendar for 2012 until reviewing the 2012 four-two calendar for the jail a decision for approval will be at the next meeting. The number of the days off for county employees will vary next year 2012 because of the Election being held.

IN THE MATTER SPYGLASS CONSULTANTS: Larry Seiler, representative from Spyglass was present to discuss an Agreement with Spyglass to review the County's telephone, cell phone and internet services and charges to see if it can recoup some cost savings for prior years and implement any changes for the future to cut down cost. Any monies saved from previous billing cost will be a 50/50 split with Spyglass and any future savings will be at a cost of 10x the saved cost to the county. The Agreement will be reviewed by the County attorney and a decision will be made at the October 3, 2011 meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR: Amy Crickmore, County Coordinator reported to the Commissioner's that a request to decorate the Courthouse square with purple ribbons for the entire month of October for National Domestic Violence, and County employees are asked to wear purple on September 30, 2011 to kick off the campaign. A motion to approve request was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The steering team requested to use the Courthouse lawn for a banner from September 26 until October 1, 2011 for "College Go Week", a motion to approve the banner was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. A request from the County Clerk to use the basement of the Government Center for the November 8, 2011 general election for the Municipality from 6 am until 6pm, after stating that the Government Center will be open that day as normal a motion to allow was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Amy also requested that another Training session be allowed for Conflicts/ Communication within the work place be given by the Extension office, the only cost would be the material cost of around \$15-20 per person attending. No definite date has been established yet but before the end of the year. A motion to allow the class was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried for approval with a 3/0 vote from the Commissioner's.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY HIGHWAY: Michael Barton, presented the Commissioner’s the bill for the milling work done in the County for 2011 from Southeastern to show the cost saving by renting the machinery. Mr. Barton also made the Commissioner’s aware that there was two or more claims against the County Highway from different utility companies showing damages done to their equipment by road work. All the claims will be given to the County Attorney and reported to the County’s insurance to see if the charges are really legit and if any reimbursements need to be made. Michael will be attending a meeting with Dan Weigold at the State Highway garage tomorrow Sept 20, 2011 in regards to the Federal Sign Program and where it stands at this time. Mr. Barton gave the Commissioner’s a copy of the Reimbursement bill that was being submitted to the State for use of County roads for detours this Summer, the reimbursement amounted to an amount of about \$17,000 for the County highway.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY CLAIMS: Commissioner Amber had reviewed the County claims in the Auditor’s office and found a correction for reimbursement for the County Clerk for mileage should have been at \$.44 per mile not \$.40 it was corrected and a new payment will be sent out. After further discussion on some claims a motion to approve was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried for approval with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONER BUDGET 2012: Auditor McGuire requested the Commissioner’s to review their portion of the County budget and request any changes they wanted to see made before presenting it to Council for approval. Discussion on the monies allocated for the EMS funding for the Parkview contract was discussed that is was already in the budget and could save payment out of the CEDIT fund. Also discussed was the line item in the Commissioner’s budget for funding the Soil and Water Conservation district.

IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT: A request for a utility permit was presented for approval from the Commissioners. The request was from CenturyLink/ United Telephone to bury cable for 2100 feet along County Road 900 South to replace cable service west of St Road #105. Approval had been given by County Engineer Brandon Forrester and a motion to allow was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried 3/0.

IN OTHER MATTERS: Commissioner Schrumpf gave an update on the Wind Energy committee that was formed and that it will hold it’s last meeting Thursday September 22, 2011 with the Consultant and then they will report its findings to the Plan Commission at that time. Work has started on implementing a centralize purchasing for the County for office supplies and more information will be given out at the next department head meeting. Commissioner Amber reported on his committee’s and for Region III-A that Dave Koenig will be resigning and taking a new job for EDC in Steuben County. For the Committee on E-911 on consolidating some of purchasing of hardware/software and cutting cost more information will be needed on the number of counties involved before final determinations are done. Commissioner Amber reported his finding for more fuel efficient cars for the County Council and submitting his recommendations for the 2012 budget to replace the use of the retired Sheriff cars. Commissioner Rethlake reported that he had received a letter from the City Council of Columbia City and they requested that no hook-ups for internet be allowed on the water tower. A date for the County Christmas party for 2011 was picked for Friday December 9, 2011.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tom Rethlake, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

George Schrumpf

Attest:_____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor