

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
October 3, 2011

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, October 3, 2011 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Tom Rethlake, Don Amber and George Schrumpf. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Dan Sigler, Terrie Bishir, Kim, Wheeler, Katie Wagner, Otto Boschet Jr, Brandon Forrester, Tim Kauffman – Spyglass, James Thomlison- Post & Mail, Debbie Beers, Jessica Hockemeyer, Ray Whiting, Derek Frederickson, Sue Gangwer, Patricia Freck, Mark Mynhier, Mark Hodges – Sheriff, Gary Bird, Jim Becher, Gene Heckman, Dave Sewell and Michael Barton

Commissioner Rethlake called the Commissioner meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY ATTORNEY: Dan Sigler, County Attorney, updated the Commissioner's that he is moving ahead with the EMS contract with Parkview. He will furnish a copy to the Commissioner's and if they approve he will forward on to Parkview with the amendments being made from previous meetings. He will also get a copy of the extension to the Commissioner's for the existing contract to run until January 1, 2012. In the matter of the Sheriff's Contract with the County, Attorney Sigler spoke on behalf of Sheriff Hodges that the new contract will allow the Sheriff to receive the same pay increase as other County employees. Future contracts each will have to be looked at when the new predecessor is elected as far as wages, health insurance, statutory rights to collect warrants and meal monies will have to be renegotiated at that time. All future contracts should be modeled from the existing agreement. Dan also reviewed the Spyglass Agreement to Audit for the County and seen nothing wrong with the Agreement. Commissioner Rethlake presented a Contract for Community Services to collect debts from the clients, Attorney Sigler has already approved and Judge Fahl has signed.

IN THE MATTER OF INMATES CO-PAY: Sheriff Hodges received an email stating that the County would be able to collect co-pays from the DOC inmates while housed in the Whitley County jail. Sheriff Hodges will work with Attorney Sigler to amend the Ordinance #2007-20 in regards to this issue and submit to the Commissioner's for approval.

IN THE MATTER OF SPYGLASS AGREEMENT: Tim Kauffman from Spyglass was present to field any of the Commissioner's questions in regards to the Agreement approved by Attorney Sigler. Fees from Spyglass were discussed in regards to the 50% for previous charges and what 10X for any new savings for the County would be. The savings review will be for land lines, internet date and will also include cell phone charges. At this time Schrumpf made a motion to table the signing of the Agreement until it was review further and a decision will be make in the October 17, 2011 meeting, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF REDISTRICTING: Debbie Beers from the Clerks office came before the Commissioners with Election employees Jessica Hockemeyer and Ray Whiting to discuss the Redistricting for the County regarding boundary changes. The process deadline was January 1, 2012 for any changes. Dan Weigold is going to check the population changes for the Council lines with four districts and three members at-large. Commissioner Amber make a motion to sign the IEC 8 forms for each precinct to be submitted to the State, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. In other matters regarding the Clerk's office, with the quote for the new doorway coming in high, Commissioner Amber will work with them to see how to utilize the existing two doors for a better flow of absentee voting in 2012.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY: Michael Barton gave an update on the Fall milling project and that they were going to be about two miles short on 950W. The milling equipment is due back on Thursday. If it is really close and the weather is nice Barton will look into what the daily cost to rent the machine will be to complete the project. Wolf road to Keiser road will be completed using the County grader, not the milling machine. 300 S project will have to wait until next year. Some complaints from the public was made on the last brush cutting from the County with regards to the depth they cut into the trees and what the debris looked like after the process.

IN THE MATTER MINUTES & CLAIMS: Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Executive Session September 15, 2011 and from the Commissioner's meeting held at the South Whitley Library on September 19, 2011, seconded by Schrumpf and carried 3/0. After discussion of the claims, Amber made a motion to approve claims for disbursement on September 6, 2011, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER HUNTERTOWN WASTEWATER: Derek Fredrickson a civil engineer from Engineering Resources came before the Commissioner's to discuss what impact the new Wastewater Treatment Facility for Huntertown was going to have as a trickle down effect from the Geller Ditch to the Eel River drain in Whitley county. Two members from the Huntertown Council were on hand to field any questions in regards to the proposed treatment center. They just wanted to make sure the correct information was getting out to the public and if Whitley County had any questions regarding the project. The discussion included of the amount of flow increase from the project, to who determines if the flow needs shut off in heavy rains, drain maintenance, sediment depths and overflow issues.

IN THE MATTER COUNT COUNCIL REPORT: Kim Wheeler, chairman of the Council, was present to report to the Commissioner's. Wheeler let the Commissioner know that a 3% increase to all full time County employees was passed for the 2012 budget, unless the employee is above base for their factored position and then the increase would only be \$300. The Council made a motion to notify all department heads that they wanted the comp time for employees used up before the last pay of 2011 or it will be paid out in the last pay of the 2011 before the increase goes into effect. An additional appropriation was approved for the reimbursement of fuel for the county engineer. The line item in the Commissioner's budget for Soil and Water will be paid for out of claims for the 2012 year. The request for more fuel efficient cars was allowed in the 2012 budget, with notice being given that the Sheriff will retain the cars a little longer knowing they are no longer going to be passed down to the other departments. We will be taking quotes from the dealerships for the November 7, 2011 Commissioner meeting and that they would like to see the purchase split up between the dealerships. Commissioner Rethlake will attend the Council meeting tomorrow to review the Commissioner budget for 2012 in regards to funding the EMS expense with Parkview and adding a line item in their budget for Troy Center in the amount of \$25,000.

IN THE MATTER OF VETERANS MARATHON: Gary Bird, race director, from the Veterans Marathon came to update the Commissioner's on the progress for the upcoming race. He wanted to let the County know that the route will be restricted at times. All the local residence along the race will be notified. The race honoree for 2011 will be the US Marine Corps supporting Toys for Tots.

IN THE MATTER OF REZONING PROPERTY: Dave Sewell from the Plan Commission presented a request for property owned by Keith Robinson located on the north side of State Road 14 and quarter mile east of CR 700 E in section 1 of Jefferson township to be rezoned from VC (Village Commercial District) to RR (Rural Residential District) for 10.25A of his property. After a public hearing the Plan Commission voted to send a favorable recommendation for the rezoning. With no objections, Commissioner Amber made a motion for Ordinance #2011-06 amending the zoning ordinance to reclassify property be approved, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER QUARTERLY REQUEST: Jim Becher from Microage Networks submitted his quarterly request for the County in regards to IT equipment. It was questioned if the Commissioner's need him to attend the meeting since already approved by Council, but they would at least like a copy of his request if they have any questions about what is being requested for the quarter. Jim also mentioned about a year ago a fire wall for data protection never installed between the County's network and the sheriff and Prosecutor's network and if the need really existed. The Commissioner's requested that the IT service for the Sheriff and Prosecutor send in a signed letter on the subject of no outside access will be allowed on the County network from Preferred, Jim will contact them and get copies back to the Commissioner's.

IN THE MATTER OF EXTENSION OFFICE: Cindy Barnett presented the Commissioners with a quote to do some updating in the County Extension office. The department will have \$1000 to comment to this project at the end of the year. The changes will make the space more ADA acceptable, both secretaries will be seen by the public when entering the office, it will free up a small conference room and overall make the dealing with the public flow much easier then the existing counter area. A motion by Amber to recommend going to the County Council for the \$4500 expense of remodeling the front office for the Extension department, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: After reviewing both the 4/2 Holiday Schedule and the normal Holiday Schedule for 2012 and noting the additional days of was because of the Election year, a motion to approve was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote by Commission. There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned. The Whitley County Health department presented two bids for some Ordinance violations, the clean up will be paid out of un-safe building fund and then be recouped with a Court Order or processed with a Tax Lien on the property. A motion was made by amber to accept the Shanksters Brother's bid on the property on 300 S for the Domingo's property, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. In reviewing the bids for the Hinzman property on St Rd #14 the Commissioner's wanted to table

the decision until further review of the actual work going to be done from the contractors. Amy Crickmore, County Coordinator, presented the Commissioner's with a request to use the Courthouse lawn the day of the Veteran's Marathon on November 12, 2011, and that two tents will be used for the runners from the race committee. A motion to approve was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried for approval with a 3/0 vote. Auditor McGuire let the Commissioner's know that Whitley County form #11, Notice of Assessments, will be mailed October 15 and that property owners will have 45 days to appeal their assessments to the Assessor's office for the 2011 pay 2012 tax year. The longevity pay for County employees will be disbursed on Monday November 21, 2011.

With no further business or comments from the public the meeting was adjourned.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tom Rethlake, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

George Schrumpf

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor