

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
November 21, 2011

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, November 21, 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, Katie Wagner, Otto Boschet Jr, James Thomlison- Post & Mail, Michael Barton, Eric Blank, Alan Tio, Larry Sieler and Brandon Forrester.

Commissioner Rethlake called the Commissioner meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY ATTORNEY: Dan Sigler, County Attorney, updated the Commissioners on some legal matters concerning Whitley County. A Notification from Chris Myers office regarding the current Tort Claim against the Sheriff for an altercation in the booking area, at this time the information is being reviewed and referred to Travelers insurance agency. They are gathering facts and Commissioner Amber wondered about the video cameras in the area being used for evidence of what really happened in the tasing incident. One of the Commissioners will have to attend a mediation with Judge Heuer for a previous case, and at this time no date has been determined. A potential claim may be coming from Parkview insurance about a medical charge for an inmate. At this time no response from Parkview in regards to the new EMS contract to be in effect for 2012, Dan will check with the legal representative Kathryn Wilcox to see where this project stands at this time.

IN THE MATTER MINUTES AND CLAIM: Minutes from the November 7, 2011 meeting were reviewed, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. In the matter of claims to be paid out November 7, 2011 Commissioner Schrumpf had reviewed the claims in the Auditor's office, questions brought up where why the Coroner has Verizon phone charges not AT&T who we are under contract with, the cost of shipping Overnight the purchase of a Toner, the expense at the Extension office for printing and mailing of newsletter and the amount of softner salt purchased at the jail. After discussion of matters a motion to allow the claims were made by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER GATEWAY PROJECT: Alan Tio from EDC came before the Commissioner's to give an update on the current Gateway Park Project. The park was developed in the 1960's and currently the EDC and Redevelopment are working on upgrades at the park with lighting, new entrance signs and drainage work to correct the erosion problems. The project will use the Highway department and the funding will come from the TIF district.

IN THE MATTER OF SPYGLASS: Larry Seiler from Spyglass was present to answer any questions about the contract the County is counter plating on entering into for the 2012 year. Questions brought up was how we would see the cost savings on the actual bills and when we would be billed by Spyglass for the cost saving to the County. How the current vendors feel about Spyglass looking at their bills for the cost saving to the County. More information will be gathered to make a final determination on this project.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY: Michael Barton gave an update of the Highway business. The highway has to go ahead to start in on the Gateway Project they will purchase the culverts at the County price to be reimbursed later. Project is waiting on the final survey from Walker's. The rail road decals and lines are painted, finishing up misc pipe work throughout the County. Highway crew finished up milling projects with the County equipment on Wolfe Rd and 300 South. Highway department is still working on the Sign program with Dan Weigold for the Federal program and if and when it has to be implemented at the County level.

IN THE MATTER OF EEL RIVER TRAILS: Eric Blank came before the Commissioner's as the Director of the Friends of Eel River Trails. He just wants signs and markers on the roadways for a bike path from Columbia City to South Whitley. Mostly this project will increase public awareness for the 4-H club and the trail. Commissioners want to check with the Attorney to see the liability of the County if we mark the roads and someone get injured or killed when riding along the roads of the County.

IN THE MATTER UTILITY PERMITS: The first utility permit is from Nipsco to install 2820 feet of 2' plastic gas main to service 5252, 5263 and 5607 E on county road 1000 south. A motion to approve the permit was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second utility permit is from CenturyLink to bury cable along Wolf Road from Business 30 West to

Lincolnway West and then on out to County Road 200 N. After discussion of the project a motion to sign the permit was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY VEHICLES: Amy Motter from Probation department came before the Commissioners to request a new vehicle for the department for 2012, the funding will come from the Court User fees. This will not be a take home vehicle and will be used for Probation visits. The second request for a new vehicle was from Paula Worden funding for this will come from the Transition funds, this will be a take home vehicle for Virgil Fulk, it will be used for job seeking and appointments for Community Corrections. A motion to allow the purchase of the two new SUV's was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER HANDBOOK UPDATE: New language was added to 4.7 Bereavement Leave in the County handbook. It specifies the number of days off for family members. A motion to approve the change was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote to implement the change.

IN THE MATTER FILE MANAGEMENT: A request from the County Clerk Debbie Beers for an Emergency necklace to be worn around the neck of clerk in File Management. After discussion of the different circumstances that could occur and what was currently available as safety options a motion to approve the purchase was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 2/1 vote with Rethlake voting the nay.

IN THE MATTER GPS EQUIPMENT: Brandon Forrester, County Engineer, came before the Commissioner's to give an update on the GPS equipment. Brandon wants to go back to the three phones with all the changes to FCC narrow banding and collecting the data this will work out better for collecting data with the network. Brandon got the blessing from the Commissioners to sell the current equipment on Ebay for a better return then trading the equipment in on the new.

IN THE MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN: Commissioner Schrumpf presented a new resolution for Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan for natural hazards to reduce the potential to harm for people and property and save taxpayer dollars. This will be used for future Grant funding and help with joint planning with other local units for Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management planning. A motion to sign the Ordinance was made by Amber, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Auditor McGuire brought end of the year billing from HJ Umbaugh and requested where funding should be allowed. The three bills involved wind energy, TIF neutralization and the SDI appeal. Commissioner Schrumpf gave an update on the ADA changes that need to have a plan for completion by the end of the year if any of the County building need changes to meet specifications. Schrumpf also looking into House Act 14-83 that deals with the Golf Cart ordinance and how it will effect the County. Recorder, April Whetstone, requested funding for a new copier, the current copier is unfixable and was purchased in 2000, they are currently taking quotes and have a loaner to use in the office. Code of Ethic for Regional Partnership confidentiality statement presented and will act on it in the December 5, 2012 meeting.

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

