

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL
JANUARY 4, 2011**

The Whitley County Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 4, 2011 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman John Barrett, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, Thomas E. Western, William Overdeer and Paula Reimers. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Phil Smith Post & Mail, Gene Rohrer Veteran's Officer, Brandon Forrester Engineer, Alan Tio EDC, Otto Boschet Jr, Scott Werstler Red Star Mfg, Dave Koenig Region 3A, Matt Rentschler Prosecutor, Gene Heckman Thorncreek, George Schrumphf Commissioner, Jim Becher Microage Network, Michael Barton Highway and Tom Rethlake Commissioner. Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND REORGANIZATION: Kim Wheeler was nominated for Chair by Barrett and seconded by LaRue. John Barrett was nominated for Vice Chair for the 2011 year motion was carried 7/0

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Prior minutes from the December 7, 2010 meeting and the special session Meeting December 21, 2010 were approved by Overdeer and seconded by Reimers and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENTS FOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Chairman Wheeler went through the list of prior years appointments and verified with the member they still wanted to commit to the assignment. Paula Reimers the newly appointed member took over the appointments for Jim Banks. Amy Crickmore will retype the new 2011 appointments and distribute out to all the individuals.

IN THE MATTER OF RED STAR MANUFACTURING: Scott Werstler gave an overview of what the company did and the background of the business that it would bring to Whitley County. The Council reviewed the information given to them by Region 3A on the request for abatement and approved a 10 year real estate abatement for them. Motion by Overdeer, seconded by Bayman and carried 7/0.

IN THE MATTER OF EXTENSION OFFICE REQUEST: Cindy Barnett was present to let the Council know that they had someone retiring from the office, requesting guidance in hiring a new person and what the wages would be at during the overlap of training. After brief discussion Amy Crickmore will look into the wages and job descriptions and discussion was tabled until the February 7, 2011 meeting for Council.

IN THE MATTER OF WHITLEY COUNTY PROSECUTOR: Matt Rentschler was present to ask for the consent of the Council for position of full time prosecutor. The consent has to be approved by Council motion was made by Bayman and seconded by Barrett carried with a 7/0 vote and Chairman Wheeler signed the consent.

IN THE MATTER OF VA OFFICER: Gene Rohrer spoke on behalf of the changes to the Veteran's office and the move to the Government Center and how it would affect his budget regarding phone and mileage expenses in his budget for 2011. Discussion was given in making the changes in his line items and moving them to salary. Decision was tabled for review until next council meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ENGINEER SALARY: A reduction of appropriation from the 2011 Highway budget was done, with a additional appropriation to County General 2011 budget in regards to the salary for the County Engineer's salary. A motion was made by Western, with a second from LaRue for these changes carried 7/0. A note was made that the \$20, 000 reimbursement from the State would then all be put in County General was received.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORT: Commissioner Chairman Tom Rethlake report on the following items discussed in the January 3, 2011 meeting.

- Border Energy hedging report showing cost saving for the County
- Purchase of bulk paper cost and maybe joint venture with Columbia City
- Humana Vision insurance county declines to participate at this time
- Wind Ordinance keeping the public abreast of happening and State Assessed Utility
- IT Contract with Jim Becher for 2011 500 hours for \$32,500
- Gary Bird representing the Veteran's Run and wanting the County to participate with the event

- Meeting with department heads on the January 18, 2011 to discuss any major purchases, job descriptions and notice of entering into any contract need to be approved
- Prioritize the building projects and move the replacement of pipes in the Courthouse up to number one on the list
- Gave update on CEDIT projects for the 2011 year and keeping a reserve in the fund for the future

IN THE MATTER OF INTERNET SERVICE FOR THE RECORDER’S OFFICE: Jim Becher spoke on behalf of the internet service available in Whitley County. The only two companies that can meet the need of the Recorder’s office are Centrylink and MediaCom at this time. The motion was previously table because we did not want to enter into a contract. Jim discussed that internet service by either would involve a contract with them. The Council discussed and a motion was made by Reimers to obtain MediaCom for the Recorder’s office at a cost of \$139.95 and a second from Bayman carried with a 7/0 vote. Jim Becher also gave a quote to the Council for Off-site Backup Proposal giving them two different options to look at for future reference if the Council wants to look into more.

IN OTHER MATTERS: Dave Sewell distributed a Comprehensive Plan B packet to each Council member for review and invited them to the January Planning and Building meeting. Brief discussion about anyone wanting to attend the Legislative Council training on February 15 and 16, 2011 in Indianapolis.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Kim Wheeler, Chairman

John Barrett, Vice Chairman

James Bayman

Glen LaRue

Thomas E. Western

William N. Overdeer

Paula G. Reimers

Attest:

Jennifer McGuire, Auditor