

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**August 2, 2011**

The Whitley County Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, August 6, 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, Tom Western, William Overdeer and Paula Reimers. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Otto Boschet Jr, George Schrupf Don Amber - Commissioners, Paula Worden, Chelsea Behm Stanley Crum, Sheriff Mark Hodges, Sharon Bear, Cathy Broxon-Ball, Randy Waldeck, Jorell Tucker, Janet Scank, Connie Bair, Michael Barton.

Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Prior minutes from the July 6, 2011 and July 18, 2011 Joint Meeting were reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Overdeer and seconded by LaRue and carried with a 7/0 vote for July 6 and a 6/0 vote with Wheeler abstaining for the July 18th meeting.

**IN THE MATTER TROY CENTER:** Paula Worden from the Community Corrections came before the Council to discuss funding for two positions one is a full time Program administrator at the Troy Center and the second is a Work Release Shift Supervisor. The Full time position currently filled by Nicole Trier will be a PAT420 at \$42,392 and the Work Release Supervisor will be a POLE390 at \$31,127 annually both positions will be paid out of the Grant funding for the #310 Community Corrections program already in existence. Overdeer made a motion to allow both positions, seconded by Western and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER REQUEST FOR CREDIT:** Sheriff Hodges came before the Council to request funding Firing Range on State owned property off of Hiler Rd. Sheriff Hodges gave the Council the background on the Range and how everything so far has been donated by SDI, INDOT and Northeastern REMC. The funds being requested \$10,000 he wants out of CREDIT monies, the Council wanted to know about surrounding departments contributing to the project, how many times a year the deputies need to be certified, and who all would have access to the Range. Hodges will look into his Firearms account for some funding, check on amount in the commissary account, the Council at this time want to hold off on contributing any monies until the 2012 budget is complete and they see where it stands.

**IN THE MATTER OF JAIL STAFFING:** Sheriff Hodges had given before the meeting the last report from the inspection at the jail showing that they were understaffed. A staffing analysis had been done and with the number of confinements they need two more additional employees to cover jail confinement. Sheriff Hodges also reported he has a deputy retiring at the end of the year and that he is using his time and no large payout would be necessary. Also discussed were the car fleet and any upcoming needs at this time or in the 2012 budget year.

**IN THE MATTER OF NON-BINDING REVIEWS:** Janet Scank,, Peabody Library, Sharon Bear from South Whitley Library, Connie Bair, from Churubusco Library came before the Council in regards to their 2012 Budgets. Janet said the use of the library seems very steady not only for books but for the use of meeting rooms and internet services. Sharon from South Whitley said they did have excess and the DLGF asked for a \$100,000 deduction in operating budget for 2012. No real changes for the Churubusco library from Connie, all being ran on part-time help staffing. The Council gave the nod of approval for all.

**IN OTHER BUDGET MATTERS:** Jorell Tucker came before the Council to discuss his 2012 budget, he updated them about not being advertised correctly and had to work off of his 2010 budget in 2011, that is why the increase. The Council does have a say in any budgeted items, but expensed are approved by the Solid Waste board. Cathy Broxon-Ball came before the Council for EMA 2012 budget after her Board approved withdrew the request for a garage and sirens, but did keep the Siren Heads. John Barrett resigned from the EMA board and the Council appointed Paula Reimers.

**IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Michael Barton reported to the Council on all the updates to the county roads. In three years over 300 miles have been repaired in Whitley County. Reported that for any of the detours from road closures from a State highways that the adjoining roads were reimbursed from the State for all the wear and tear. Twenty more miles will be done in the Fall with the milling machine in October to finish up for 2011.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORT:** Commissioner Don Amber reported on the following items discussed in the August 1, 2011 Commissioner meeting.

- Golf Cart Ordinance
- Rezoning denied in Thorncreek from Ag to Industrial on Co Rd 250
- Indiana Data Center presentation on use of County water tower for internet service
- No change for premiums or deductions in 2012 for County health insurance
- Allow Jim Becher to make IT purchases for under \$300
- Change setup in Clerk's office to allow for use of 2<sup>nd</sup> door
- Petition denied for speed change on 300 North
- Accepted roads for the County at the new Rail Connect Park
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**IN THE MATTER OF MEETING PER DIEMS:** Auditor McGuire reported to the Council on the surrounding "meeting per diems" in comparison to what Whitley County was paying for the Board members. After discussion a motion was made by Western to increase the per diem from \$50 to \$75 per meeting effective for the 2012 years budget, seconded by Overdeer and carried with a 6/1 vote with LaRue voting the nay vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF BUDGET CHANGES:** After reviewing the budgets from the departments the council made some determinations for 2012. The Veteran's service officer will be increased to \$10,000 annually, and money put in part time help of \$2500. For the jail the council discussed increasing with one confinement officer and cutting the part-time back to \$35,000. Recommendations and changes are still being made and awaiting the certified assessments to finish up.

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

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Kim Wheeler, Chairman

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John Barrett, Vice Chairman

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James Bayman

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Glen LaRue

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Thomas E. Western

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William N. Overdeer

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Paula G. Reimers

Attest:

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Jennifer McGuire, Auditor