

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**February 6, 2012**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, February 6, 2012 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Don Amber, Tom Rethlake and George Schrumpf. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Dan Sigler, Amy Crickmore, Otto Boschet Jr, James Thomlison- Post & Mail, Michael Barton, Brandon Forrester, Cathy Broxon-Ball, Katie Wagner, Henry Janda, Scott Wagner, Jeff Hinen, Gene Heckman, Marc Gatton, Joan Null, Mark Myhnier and Dan Weigold

Commissioner Amber called the Commissioner meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY:** Dan Sigler, County Attorney, two insurance bills were reviewed from Travelers for claims out of the Sheriff's department. Attorney Sigler explained the liability cap was \$25,000 and that he had spoke with John LeFever in regards to this issue for the deductibles. The Sheriff Sale Ordinance is ready to be reviewed and after Sheriff Hodges looks it over it will be presented for acceptance from the Commissioner's for a motion to approve. Discussion on Assessor issues and if a Contract needed to be started at this time, no date has been determined as of yet.

**IN THE MATTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** Scott Wagner brought notification of IC 36-9-40 that says the County "may" install private sewage disposal systems and bill the land owner with installments. After discussion of installation cost limits, funding and how to determine eligibility, a motion to not to allow funding for sewage systems within the County was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried 3/0 vote at this time.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Meeting from January 17, 2012 were reviewed, a motion to approve was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Minutes from the Joint Meeting with Council on January 25, 2012 were reviewed, a correction in the third line of the fourth paragraph changing "do" to "due" was made, after noting the change a motion to approve was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber had reviewed the claims for February 6, 2012 disbursements, discussion on the Contracts for the County elevators and that he was going to speak with Denny Fenker to see if both vendors were needed. A motion to approve was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS:** A Commissioner appointment to the South Whitley Plan Commission was presented to the Commissioners, Dave Sewell, Director of Planning & Building made a recommendation that Marcia Clupper is interested in renewing her appointment. A motion to reappoint Marcia Clupper to the South Whitley Plan Commission was made by George, seconded by Rethlake and approved with a 3/0 vote. Next appointment was for the Churubusco Plan Commission, Ken Bultemeier notified County Planning & Building that he would like to be reappointed, a motion to allow the appointment was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Last Commissioner appointments were Dave Johnson & Kick Kyler for a three year members on the Whitley County Drainage Board, a motion to approve the appointments were made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried both for approval with a 3/0 vote from the Commissioners.

**IN THE MATTER EMA DEPARTMENT:** Cathy Broxon-Ball, EMA Director, came before the Commissioners for Resolution #2012-02 to Participate in the Great Central Shakeout cited for the date of February 7, 2012 and that local schools will be participating in the drill. A motion to sign the Resolution was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and approved with a 3/0 vote. Next item presented by Cathy was Ordinance #2012-02 that addresses the Whitley County Disaster Emergency Declaration, there will be three advisory levels now for the County 1) Advisory 2) Watch and 3) Warning and this new ordinance will be in line with the State's advisory for emergency situations. After discussion a motion to sign the new Ordinance #2012-02 was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF GIS GRANT:** Dan Weigold spoke on behalf of a Grant that is designed to pay for a feature service to supply State with our County information. It will show parcels, acreage, address points, corner markers throughout the County.

**IN THE MATTER OF NEW SHERIFF VEHICLES:** Marc Gatton, Chief Deputy, came before the Commissioners to update them on the purchase of two new squad cars for the 2012 budget year. The previous Crown Vic’s are no longer available and the new Dodge Charges will be replacing the body styles. The amount needed is \$52,984, \$24,492 per vehicle and \$2,000 per vehicle to equip with new light bars. The appropriation will be out of Cum Cap budget, Rethlake made a motion for favorable recommendation to Council for the purchase, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER COUNTY HIGHWAY:** Michael Barton updated the Commissioners on the Whitley County roads, numerous calls have come in on the conditions of the gravel roads, with the weather changing so much this Winter the frost is leaving bad runs of ripples and soft spots. Still working on the project at Gateway park and will do a walk through with Jim Breckler before starting any of the work.

**IN THE MATTER SPYGLASS AUDIT:** A recent report came back from Spyglass in regards to phone lines, internet and wireless billing for the County. Different services looked like they could be eliminated. Butch Sterner from SDS will head up the project to see if the lines really can be removed and will report back on the February 21, 2012 Commissioner meeting.

**IN THE MATTER COUNTY ENGINEER:** Brandon Forrester spoke to the Commissioners in regards to the vacancy from retirement on April 27, 2012 in his office, and getting the go ahead to hire a month ahead to cross train and what the cost would be to the County. The new hire will need a Civil Engineering/Technology degree with a background in GIS, Auto Cad, and the use of GPS equipment. Brandon also informed the Commissioners of the bridge closing on Old US #30 for ten weeks and that the passage is used by over 4,000 vehicles daily. Brandon has informed the City, Sheriff Department, INDOT and all land owners. Detour signs will be used and notification to keep truck traffic down and speed during the process.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Auditor McGuire presented the 2012 Tax Sale Contract with SRI to the Commissioners for signature, after discussion of the dates and eligibility of properties a motion to approve the Contract for the year was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote for approval. From the public Joan Null presented the Commissioners with booklet on Wind Energy that she had brought back from Washington DC on renewable energy. Otto Boschett spoke in regards to some funding for the purchase of video cameras for the recording of public meetings. Discussion on the Wind Energy and what time frame it would be presented to the Commissioner’s and if public input could or would be necessary when the Commissioner’s meet. The 2012/2013 two year CEDIT program will be presented to Council tomorrow. Commissioner Rethlake reminded everyone that April was County Government Month and what we were going to plan for this year. Commissioner Amber sent out a “Thanks” to NAPA for the County employee discount program. Amber will be meeting with Denny Fenker in the change to snow removal at the Jail parking lot.

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

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Don Amber, Chairman

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George Schrumpf, Vice Chairman

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Tom Rethlake, Member

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer McGuire  
Auditor