

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
May 21, 2012

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, May 21 2012 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Don Amber, Vice Chair George Schrumpf and Tom Rethlake. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Dan Sigler, Otto Boschet Jr, Brienne Eichman, Henry Janda, Katie Wagner, Mark Mynhier, Joan Null, Dave Sewell, Stanley Crum, Larry Long, Lavon Fletcher, Jay Baumgartner, Matt Peterson, Debbie Beers and Deb Fairchild.

Commissioner Amber called the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY: Dan Sigler, County Attorney, brought before the Commissioners the updated County Golf Cart Ordinance that will be implemented for July 1, 2012 based on the new legislation passed by Statue this session. Discussion was on the limit of passengers per cart and where the fees for plating the carts will go to the Sheriff Department and if any Fines are given for violating the Ordinance will go back to County General. A motion to approve Ordinance #2012-10 with changes for allowing Golf Carts on County Roads effective July 1, 2012 was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Next was Ordinance 2012-11 in regards to the County Personnel Policy with the new State law change to Nepotism for all units of Government. After discussion a motion by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote to allow the update to the County handbook with the changes. Last on the agenda from Attorney Sigler was the refinance on the Government Center bond loans, the new S & P rating was an A+ for the County, discussion if the savings on the refinance was going to justify the closing cost incurred for the refinance. After discussion a motion by Schrumpf to continue with the refinance with a minimal savings of \$125,000, seconded by Rethlake for the vote but carried with a 2/1 vote and Rethlake casting the nay. Attorney Sigler is looking into collecting an Election Board fine that has not been paid for County Clerk Debbie Beers. Contacted by an individual that purchased County Tax Sale property and might want to break out of payment finding the property contaminated, Auditor McGuire will check on stipulations involved in the sale. An "At Will" Consulting Contract was presented and approved by Sigler for the Commissioners to sign for the Probation department for a contract that will cover a maternity leave and be paid out of Probation User Fees, a motion to sign was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried for approval with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Rethlake presented a new 2012/2013 Community Correction Agreement that needed approved and signed by the Commissioners, a motion to allow the approval was make by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried for signature with a 3/0 vote by the Commission.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY: The 2011 County Highway Annual Report was presented to the Commissioners for signatures again. After discussion of the changes for prior year disbursement balances a motion to sign was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER MINUTES: Minutes from the May 7, 2012 Commissioner meeting were reviewed. With a note to change the spelling on "Kause" to "Krause" for the appointment to the South Whitley Plan Commission a motion to approve was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried for approval with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER BOWEN CENTER: The Commissioners recently received the 2013 budget request from the Bowen Center for \$176,400 and after receiving the request decided to have a representative from the Bowen Center come before the Commission and explain what the County's appropriation paid for. Jay Baumgartner, Senior VP of Financial Services from Bowen presented the Commissioners with the 2011 Annual Report showing the patients served from Whitley County and that most patients are referrals from the court, schools, DCS or other community organizations such as churches within the County and the funding helps subsidize the lower income population. The Whitley County Board of Directors for the Bowen Center is Eric Helfrich, Dawn Michaels and Jim Fleck.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS: Commissioner Amber reviewed the current claims for disbursement for the County dated May 21, 2012. After discussion of some of funding within the departments a motion to approve claims as presented was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER POSTAGE METERS: Matt Peterson from Pitney Bowes, Debbie Beers and Deb Fairchild from the Clerks office and Jen McGuire from the Auditor's office spoke on the

current issues for the County's postage meters. The County currently uses Hasler for all the meters, upgrades and postage needs, the Clerk's office has recently received poor service and it has caused issues with the daily mail being sent from the Courts and causing several trips to the actual Post office for mailings. Matt from Pitney Bowes is now quoting both offices new postage machines with an all inclusive cost for updates, supplies and service for the machine covered by a lease that is still within the appropriations of expenditures for 2012 postage budget. At this time the Commissioners want to table their decision and have Pitney Bowes furnish some references to the new machines being offered and the service they provide to current customers of Pitney Bowes.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS: Commissioner Amber presented the Contracts from Havel for the installation of boilers and chillers at the Courthouse location. An Agreement to pay for the repair out of CEDIT funds for the 2013 budget was granted by Tim Pitts from Havel. The quotes were approved for the County museum roof repair and the repairs to the Annex building for water damage. Additional cost from Atlas for the cleaning and re-caulking of the monuments outside the Courthouse was allowed for \$6000 from CEDIT funds a motion to allow was made by Schrupf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY WIND ORDINANCE: Open discussion how the Wind Ordinance could be changed and after the changes then it would go back to the Planning Department to allow or deny the requested recommendations. At this time the Commissioners are not taking any further intake and are going forth with the information on hand at this time. Commissioner Schrupf stated that the Ordinance is never going to be "perfect" and changes could go on forever and will have to be discussed as each situation arises. Discussion on the tower size and how that would impact safety factors based on height and blade size. Also set backs and the portion of the Ordinance for the transportation requirements were discussed for changes. At this time there will not be another Public Meeting and the Commissioners will review the suggestions and recommendations and give feedback to the Planning Commission with a decision.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY VISION INSURANCE: Amy Crickmore, County Coordinator, presented the Commissioners with the cost to the County employees to add Vision insurance on the plan. This will be at no cost to the County and at least fifty employees must sign up in the open enrollment which will be in June 2012, funding will be implemented in July and coverage will start on August 1, 2012 for employees. A motion to approve the VSP vision insurance presented by Erin Martin from Phillips Financial was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: An addendum to the Personnel Policy for Printing was presented by Amy Crickmore for County employees to help out with the cost of printing. No personal documents, duplex printing when printing, correct large files to process to print, archive emails don't print all suggested by Advanced Imaging Solutions. As for cost to public the cost of black and white 8 1/2 X 11 will be .10 and colored will be .25 if requested. The request for the use of the Courthouse lawn for September 7, 2012 for the Fall Art Festival was presented again and it was discussed with the Farmer's market that it would not interfere, so a motion to allow was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Columbia City Elks Lodge #1417 requested to use the Courthouse lawn on Saturday June 16, 2012 for a Flag Ceremony from 12 to 1pm, a motion to allow was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrupf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schrupf wants the supplies put back in each department's budget for the 2013 Budget year when going to Council and not group all into the Commissioner's budget. Commissioner wants to allow the request of \$400 from Wood-Land-Lakes for the 2013 Budget year from the Commissioners, Auditor McGuire will bring the reports next meeting for the Commissioners to review expenses for 2012 year and forecast appropriations for the 2013 Budget year.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Don Amber, Chairman

George Schrupf, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake, Member

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor

