

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 4, 2012

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, June 4 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, Brianne Eichman, Henry Janda, Katie Wagner, Mark Mynhier, Joan Null, Dave Sewell, Stanley Crum, Larry Long, Matt Peterson, Becki Shaw, Stephanie Flinn, Sherry Flenar, Dan Flenar, Kent Turnbow Dan Graves, Cathie Graves, David Meyer, Francis Hoffman, Jen Wilcoxson, Amy Lybarger, Chad Shearer, Tracy Hare, Sheriff Hodges, Michael Barton, Gary Cox, Alan Nauts, Charles Acheson, Caroline Dennis, Stacy Sherman, Sherry Arnold, Joe Arnold, Nick Stranger, Tim Weybright, Kathleen Spreen, Diana Shoemaker, Heather Calera, Renee Gase, and Robert Anderson.

Commissioner Amber called the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY: Dan Sigler, County Attorney, presented Resolution 2012-07 for the Amendment of Refinancing the Bonds by the Whitley County Holding Corporation on the Government Center. After discussion a motion by Rethlake to sign the Resolution, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote for approval. The cost saving on the refinance will be estimated at around \$414,000 net for the County on the remaining Lease payments. Next Attorney Sigler, along with Sheriff Hodges, informed the Commissioners of some large claims that were going to be processed in the next couple of months for inmate health care. Attorney Sigler gave a brief overview of the medical care for inmates and how these charges are processed by the inmate healthcare. Commissioners wanted to know how to avoid this situation in the future, and the Sheriff is working on new coverage and also to check for pre-existing conditions, what the inmate is being charged for, work with the prosecutor's office to have case completed timely will help save cost but there is always a chance of this situation with the change in laws about releasing on their on recognizance when a situation arises.

IN THE MATTER MINUTES & CLAIMS: Minutes from the May 21, 2012 Commissioner meeting were reviewed. With a note to change the spelling on "statue" to "state" for the first paragraph, a motion to approve was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Claims for disbursement on June 4, 2012 were discussed, Commissioner Amber had reviewed claims and questions three claims, one for \$1779.00 disbursed to Columbia City for re-banding of radios from an MA Grant, the second was \$64,000 for Inmate Care and the third was \$17,500 for Passages, after discussion a motion to allow claims was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake with a 3/0 votes from the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber will invite Passages to a meeting and check with EMA Cathy Broxon-Ball on the radio claim.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY HIGHWAY: Michael Barton, Highway Supervisor, came before the Commissioner's with Amy Lybarger from NRCS for a drainage issue on 600 W located on Bernard Dahms property. Amy explained and showed the Commissioners the condition of the site and the large mass of water by pictures requesting funding from the Highway and County on the project and that it needed to implemented now because of the dry weather and the contractor was on site and would do the work at much less of a cost to replace the tile that was in the road easement. The cost \$3000 will be paid out of Highway, Cum Bridge and CEDIT funding for the County's portion, a motion to go ahead on the project in conjunction with Conservation District was approved with a motion from Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote for approval. Barton went on to tell the Commissioners that the 2012 sealing program will start tomorrow and cover 70 miles of road this year, dust control program will be finished up today and that the entire County road banks have been mowed at least once for the year.

IN THE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE: The Commissioners had requested that a representative from the County Extension office come before the Commissioner's and explain a request for \$39,460 for Professional Fees from their department. Cindy Barnett spoke that the claim was for Educators from Purdue and that Whitley County has two that is Dave Addison and Cindy that cover the Ag, Health and the Youth or 4-H programs. This is a mandated contractual agreement for every County and every County is billed in the month of April from Purdue. Also discussed was the monthly mileage claims and that MapQuest was requested for trips made outside of the normal.

IN THE MATTER OF CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENTS: The situation of furnishing phones for County personnel that have an existing phone already was brought up again about reimbursing them for usage and not using the County furnished phone. The three personnel being reimbursed will be Michael Barton, George Schrumpf and Scott Jones at this time, each person will be reviewed if it is really an emergency personnel issue that involves the County. The stipend will

be processed through the payroll and taxed at \$30.00 a month and the County phones will be returned and removed from the bill. A motion by Rethlake to approve and look at each situations as it arises for the future was made, seconded by Amber and carried with a 2/0 vote, with Schruppf abstaining.

IN THE MATTER POSTAGE METERS: Auditor Jen McGuire spoke on behalf of changing from the current vendor Hasler for postage machines for the County to Pitney Bowes. Auditor McGuire had furnish letters of recommendation from other Counties and a brochure showing that Pitney Bowes was State approved for cost saving for the Commissioners to review. After discussion that the final cost will not be any more than already appropriated for postage, but the service provided and the new machines will enhance the overall County for future postage upgrades will work out better for the County's needs a motion to sign the two year contract with Pitney Bowes was made by Schruppf, seconded by Rethlake and approved with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY WIND ORDINANCE: Commissioner Amber spoke to the crowd attending the meeting in regards to what the Commissioners role was in passing the current Wind Ordinance presented to them by Whitley County Planning. After all the discussion and review of the current Ordinance presented the only recommendations that the County Commissioners want to address is the set back lines for both participant and non-participants and the cost to repair roads and bridges if a decommission of the turbines is necessary. On discussion of the set back changes they want to amend the set back to 6.5 times the height of the turbine at a minimal of 2640' for the health, safety and quality of life for Whitley County citizens. There have not been any long term studies done on the effects turbines have for health issues and environmental studies to confirm what the future might bring. On the issue of the repair to roads and bridges each situation will have to be looked at separately on decommission of turbines and the cost involved. So at this time the Commissioners are sending the recommended changes back to Planning Commissioner for the set back changes of the 6.5 times the turbine height and a minimal of 2640' a motion by Amber, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber thanked the Plan Commission for all the work involved in this Ordinance.

IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT: A Utility Permit was presented to the Commissioners from CenturyLink for placing 3249 feet of buried cable in Larwill along Kind Street to Old Trail Road. After discussion and with prior approval from County Engineer Brandon Forrester, a motion by Rethlake to approve the permit, seconded by Schruppf and carried with a 3/0 vote was submitted.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: An email from Frank Kessler from the Churubusco town council requesting \$500 for seasonal improvements of flowers for the town was discussed and a motion to allow was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schruppf and carried with a 3/0 vote to allow the distribution to the town. A request for a new computer for the VSO officer Gene Rohrer was presented by Microage and that wasn't on the 2012 budget request for a cost of \$876. After discussion is was given favorable recommendation to the Council for the purchase. Amy Crickmore presented a request from the Whitley County Community Christmas Organization for the use of the Courthouse lawn and gazebo for the weekend of December 7 and 8, 2012, this is an annual event. A motion by Rethlake to approve, seconded by Schruppf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Another request for the use of the Courthouse gazebo for a wedding on September 29, 2012 was tabled until further information is gathered. Commissioner Rethlake reported that Community Correction has 84 clients, one away from maximum capacity and that thing are running well. Commissioner Schruppf reported the Print Management is installed and working out well with all the Departments. A replacement for County Coordinator has been hired, Pam Smith, and she will start on June 20, 2012.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Don Amber, Chairman

George Schruppf, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake, Member

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor

