

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
July 16, 2012

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, July 16, 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, Pete Mallers, Otto Boschet Jr, Brianne Eichman, Henry Janda, Katie Wagner, Stanley Crum, Cathy Broxon-Ball, Duane Ginder, Doug Brown and Frank Hoffman.

Commissioner Amber called the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY: Dan Sigler gave the Commissioner an update on the Inmate Health Care cost and that the Sheriff and Prosecutor's office are working together on the issue. Inmates with existing health problems are being thoroughly reviewed when incarcerated. The Wind Energy Ordinance was discussed and Attorney Sigler will do a final review for a date of the meeting used for the amendments and it will be signed by in the August 6, 2012 meeting by the Commissioners. Ordinance 2012-10 for the County Golf Cart Ordinance was asked to be amended for the age requirements for riders. Sigler will look into the State requirements and any overlapping of restrictions between both laws before making any changes. Discussion on the Torte Claim involving Dean Bunting and what the final cost should be to the County based on legal fees and court cost compared to our County insurance policy, Auditor McGuire will look into how much has currently been expensed on the claim. Notified Attorney Sigler of a Freedom of information request in regards to Prairie Energy Corporation and Debbie Beers had responded to the request.

IN THE MATTER OF PARKVIEW LEASE: Pete Mallers from Mallers ,Beers & Salin LLP came before the Commissioners to discuss the termination for a lease between the Whitley Memorial Hospital, Inc. and Whitley County. This is the second phase of the purchase of the old County hospital and the purchase of the Lumburg Building then to be sold Passages. A motion to sign the Termination of Lease was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 2/1 with Amber casting the nay vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMS PURCHASE: Commissioner Amber passed out an Amended Agreement schedule between Parkview and the County on what year an ambulance would be purchased by each party based on the Amended contract with Parkview. After discussion it was determined no matter when the cycle fell the County would be responsible for three years and Parkview would be for two years on replacing the ambulance. Concern if the ambulance purchase was done in the same year that later on they would have to be replaced in the same budget year. Questions arose from the Commissioners on the miles of each unit and the safety of the EMS staff and any passengers was questioned, also any feedback on what surrounding Counties practices are at this time for when to replace units. Duane Ginder, the EMS Director was on hand to field questions in regards to the purchase. Ginder also present the quotes that had been turned in from the vendors, one from Life Star for \$139,000 and one from Marque for \$158,500 and the older ambulance unit would be traded in on this cost. At this time the discussion was tabled until Commissioner's meet with Council for approval of the purchase and if the cost could come from Whitley County Foundation Funds instead of the CEDIT plan.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY BURN BAN: The Whitley County Commissioners along with the recommendations of the Whitley County Fire Chiefs Association is going to extend the Declaration of Limited Local Disaster Emergency for all Open Burn Ban in Whitley County. This will be as of July16, 2012 until July 30, 2012 at 1pm and will then be revisited based on the drought conditions at that time. A motion to sign the extension was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote from the Commission. Cathy Broxon-Ball, EMA Director, discussed that Whitley County is one of the thirty-six counties in the Primary Natural Disaster Area designated by the USDA for extreme drought. Paperwork was passed out to the Commission with the Guidelines for the matching Grant and what the 2012/2013 recommendations would be for reimbursement of wages.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 2, 2012 meeting as presented, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber reviewed the current claims for disbursement for the County dated July 16, 2012. After discussion a motion to approve was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER UTILITY PERMIT: A permit from Nipsco for installation of 940 feet of 4' plastic gas line to serve 3100 E Business #30 was presented to the Commissioners. The permit has been approved by County Engineer Brandon Forrester, after discussion on the location of this service a motion to approve was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote from the Commission.

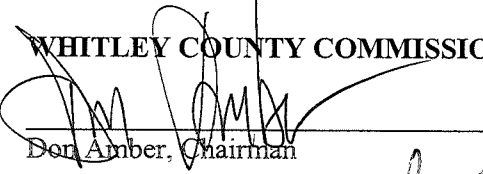
IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY INSURANCE: Discussion from the Commissioners on the Employee Contribution for the County Insurance plan for the new year coverage starting August 1, 2012. The increase of the twenty-two percent that is allowed to remain grandfathered in the current plan will not be much of an increase to the employees. The amount is still not going to be close to the 25% allowed in self-insured plans contributed by employees. After discussion a motion to make the increase to allow for the 22% increase was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. A thirty day notice will have to be given to all employees covered by the plan before the change is implemented.

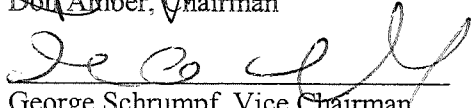
IN THE MATTER OF THE CAMP SAMARITAN: Discussion on the status and upkeep at the ground know as Camp Samaritan that was given to the County by the DNR. The County does not have the funds or manpower to maintain the grounds and will be looking at what need to be done to give it back to the DNR. Further discussion on the property on Fish Hatchery Road and the County Park was discussed if we should keep at the County or ask Gene Heckman, Thorncreek Township Trustee if they would be interested in maintain and taking ownership. A motion to give back the Camp Samaritan to DNR was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. They will contact Thorncreek and discuss the other properties.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: The Commissioners 2013 budget was discussed for changes and why increases or changes from the 2012 budget that Council wanted updated on. Commissioner Amber wants to compare Personal Property assessments for Form #102 and #103 from current to previous reports done by the Townships. The monthly VSO report from Gene Rohrer was reviewed.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Don Amber, Chairman


George Schrumpf, Vice Chairman


Tom Rethlake, Member

Attest: 
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor