

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
November 19, 2012

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, November 19, 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, Pam Smith, Dan Sigler, Michael Barton, Henry Janda, Stanley Crum, Francis Hoffman, Lindsay Pease-Human Shelter, Cindy Baker-United Way, Dennis Fenker, Mark Sturtevant, Katie Wagner and Otto Boschet.

Commissioner Amber called the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Dan Sigler, County Attorney, has prepared a Quit Claim Deed to transfer the Fish Hatchery property back to the State of Indiana. Reviewed a case where the Sheriff's department is being allegedly sued, Attorney Sigler will contact the Prosecutor's office regarding the lawsuit. A copy of the Contract from Community Corrections was given to Sigler to be reviewed and will be discussed in the December 3rd Commissioner meeting with regards to housing DOC inmates at the Whitley County facility. Attorney Sigler has been contacted by the Whitley County Humane Society, Mark Espich, in regards to funding.

IN THE MATTER OF UNITED WAY: Cindy Baker from the United Way wanted to make contact with the Commissioners to kick off the "Employee Giving Campaign". This is a voluntary contribution from the employee's bi-weekly pay. They will be working with Pam Smith in HR and Vicky Schrader in payroll to re-educate the options the employees can chose that wish to participate. A motion to allow the information forwarded to County employees was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER HAVEL SERVICE AGREEMENT: Denny Fenker and Mark Sturtevant presented a Service Agreement from Havel that was approved by Attorney Sigler to maintain the new equipment recently installed at the Courthouse and the existing equipment at the Government Center. After discussion of what the Agreement would cover on the service and equipment for the amount of \$6876.00 annually the increased expense will have to be approved by Council. Schrumpf made a motion to approve the "Service Agreement" from the Commissioners with Havel that will start on January 1, 2013.

IN THE MATTER OF THE WHITLEY COUNTY HUMANE SHELTER: Lindsay Pease, Director from the Humane Society came before the Commissioners to make a formal request from the County from CEDIT in the amount of \$25,000. Lindsay passed out a brochure showing the increase in animals at the shelter and a decrease of contributions. A discussion of the increase of cost for housing the animals and that a large portion of the animals brought to the shelter are from the County and not the incorporated districts in the County. Columbia City, Churubusco, South Whitley and Larwill are already contributing to the shelter annually with contributions, Lindsay reported that surrounding County's do contribute to their shelters and showed what each County our size was contributing either by Contract or within the County budget. Commissioner Amber feels the shelter is being professionally ran and do work on a shoestring budget and favors the \$25,000 contribution out of CEDIT and Commissioner Schrumpf added the \$25,000 contribution amount is comparable to other Counties our size but it will be a final determination by the County Council for approval.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY HIGHWAY REPORT: Michael Barton gave the Highway report. The Interlocal Agreement between Whitley County and Allen County for work on the intersection at 900 South and Liberty Mills road was reviewed. It was determined the Commissioners need to meet Allen County Commissioner and come up with a plan for a safer intersection. At this time the Agreement will not be signed because Whitley County does not want to pay \$101,000 towards the project that may never be completed. Michael will look at the cost of Whitley County doing the work for the project with our own department to save cost. The annual Highway bids will be opened on December 3, 2012 at 11am.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: A motion to approve the minutes from the Commissioner's November 5, 2012 meeting with changes to Brianne, Hatchery and 501C3 was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber had reviewed claims for distribution as of November 19, 2012 and after discussion a motion to allow claims was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMITS: Four utility permits were presented to the Commissioner’s all had been reviewed by Brandon Forrester, County Engineer, and have his approval for signatures from the Commissioners. The first permit was for Frontier for a bore across Anderson Rd from an existing pedestal, a motion to approve was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Second was a permit from Nipsco to install 330’ of 3” plastic gas main for service at 4875 and 4860 North St Rd #9, a motion to approve was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Third permit was from CenturyLink for buried cable on the East Business #30 for the new City Ford location, a motion to approve was given by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote and last was permit from Frontier for a bore across 550 East to a private drive located at 6779 N a motion to approve was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY COORDINATOR: Pam Smith presented a letter from the State DNR to reclaim lake front on Shriner Lake, a motion to sign the letter was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Two request for use of County property were presented, the first was from the City for the use of the Courthouse lawn this Friday for the Lighted Christmas parade from 5-9pm, a motion to allow was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second request was from Saturn Christian Church for a pray session on Thursday May 2, 2013 from 11-3pm, a motion to approve was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Last item presented was a change to the County Policy in regards to Comp Time Pay Out. The policy change will now pay out all comp time accrued from Jan 1 – Dec 31 and not have any carry over from year to year. A motion to approve was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote by the Commissioners.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: The Annual Certification of Elected Officials on new Nepotism law was reviewed and they will be kept annually as required with the new law change. Commissioner Rethlake updated the Commissioners on the Risk Management status. Commissioner Schrumpf held a meeting with departments on their concerns with GovPro and Advanced Imaging. Commissioner Amber reported meeting with Tom Payne from Border Energy to discuss the cost saving analysis recently submitted to the County. The County will be requesting bids from other vendors for the December 3, 2012 meeting to review cost. The County is still working with Camp Whitley for the transfer of property at Camp Samaritan and the State looking at how the process can be completed for all units involved. Commissioner Amber gave an overview of the CEDIT expenditures for 2012 on all 9 projects and handed out a 2013/2014 First Draft to be 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