

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
December 3, 2012

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, December 3, 2012 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Don Amber, George Schrumpf and Tom Rethlake. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Coordinator Pam Smith, Dan Sigler, Otto Boschet Jr, Brianne Eichman and Brett Myers- Post & Mail, Michael Barton, Brandon Forrester, Joan Null, Stanley Crum, Holly Schrader, Doug Hanes, Frank Hoffman, Paula Worden, Sean Martin, Marcus Gatton, Mark Hodges, Dave Sewell, Josh Neal and Katie Wagner.

Commissioner Amber called the Commissioner's meeting to order, a special session was open to accept all the Highway annual bids and quotes for 2013. Commissioner Amber welcomed all the vendors and thanked them for attending the meeting. Bids 1 -11 were opened and read aloud. All the information will be logged and put in a spreadsheet and posted with the minutes from this meeting awaiting approval from Michael Barton and Brandon Forrester. At this time the meeting was recessed.

Commissioner Amber reconvened the meeting at 1:00pm.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY ATTORNEY: Dan Sigler, County Attorney, updated the Commissioners that two new Tort Claims were filed against the County regarding the Sheriff's Department and that he has entered an appearance for both and notified the insurance carrier on behalf of the County. Two other County Ordinance violations dealing with the junk and trash enforcement have been implemented by the Health Department for clean up at the sites. An issue with one of the sites on a car being removed the family thought was operational is being discussed with the vendor Shankster to show if the car was plated correctly. The last subject was the approval for the contract with the Department of Correction at the Community Corrections facility for Paula Worden.

IN THE MATTER COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FACILITY: Paula Worden came before the Commissioners to present for signature the Contract between the County and the Department of Corrections for housing. At this time we would not be able to house out of County because of the overcrowding at both the Correction facility or the Jail but it would be in place if the situation changes throughout the year. Paula supplied a Snap Shot dated December 4, 2012 on the population at the Corrections facility. Rethlake made a motion to sign the Contract, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Paula also spoke about the bids received for the cost of a new roof at Community Corrections and it will be submitted for the 2013 CEDIT program.

IN THE MATTER OF JAIL IMPROVEMENTS AND SECURITY UPGRADES: Sheriff Hodges reported to the Commissioners that they had only received one bid on the security system at the Courthouse and was waiting on others before moving forward on the project. The system is eight years old and they are having trouble with false alarms and motion control sensors. The Commissioners questioned if this would be a complete new system or an upgrade to the existing vendor. Next on the agenda were the Jail repairs for the showers. Sheriff Hodges updated the Commissioners on the questions asked from the previous meeting on awarding the bid to Premier Coating. At this time Sheriff Hodges would like half the funding come from Misdemeanant Fund and half the cost be covered by CEDIT funds. A motion by Schrumpf for the approval expenditures was made, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER REZONING: Dave Sewell from Whitley County Plan Commission brought a Rezoning recommendation from the November 21, 2012 meeting. The amendment will be for 1.1 acre currently zoned IPM, Industrial Park/Manufacturing to GC General Commercial. The property is located at the northwest corner of Governors Road and Business #30 and will be occupied by CANI (Community Action of Northeast Indiana). After discussion a motion to allow the rezoning with Ordinance #2012-16 was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. While Dave was present the Commissioners went ahead with the appointments for the 2013 Plan Commissions. At this time Jon Kissinger, Columbia City Plan Commission, John Johnson and Doug Wright for the Whitley County Plan Commission have been contacted and wish remain on the Commissions again. After discussion a motion to reappoint the three candidates was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners were notified that Donna Tom from the Churubusco Plan Commission wishes to retire and a new appointment will be necessary for 2013 to fill the vacancy. Commissioner Amber will contact Patty Amber and Frank Kessler for any suggestions and possibly run an ad in the local papers for anyone interested in the position on the Commission.

IN THE MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Minutes from the November 19, 2012 were reviewed, with noted changes to “Humane” Shelter not “Human” Shelter and at this time no dates to meet with Allen County Commissioners, a motion to approve was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Claims for disbursement on December 3, 2012 were reviewed after discussion a motion to allow was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER COUNTY COORDINATOR: Pam Smith presented a request for the use of the first floor of the Courthouse and December 24, 2012 from 5-9pm from the Columbia City Fire Department. After discussion on the date being Christmas eve a motion to approved was made by Rethlake after checking with security, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Also presented was an option for the County employees to allow a payroll deduction for the Whitley County YMCA. The YMCA will offer a 20% discount and waive the \$75.00 enrollment fee for any County employee who allows the membership through the Payroll deduction. A motion to allow was made by Rethlake, seconded Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER WHITLEY COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD: The Whitley County Drainage Board submitted a recommendation to reappoint Steve Sickafoose for the 2013 year. Steve was contacted and has indicated a desire to continue to serve on the Drainage Board for another term. A motion to reappoint was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Stanley Crum from the public suggested that the Board appointments and term limits be posted on the County Website for informational purpose. Two retired sheriff’s cars will be sold at an Auction and will be advertised in the local papers. Auditor McGuire notified the Commissioners there was still over 1500 Homesteads not “Verified” in Whitley County and the last notification will be mailed out that the Exemption will be removed for the 2012 pay 2013 tax year if not turned in by December 31, 2012 per new State statue. The Interlocal Agreement between Solid Waste and the County will be tabled until after the first of the year for signatures when the newly elected Treasurer comes into office. Commissioner Rethlake updated the group on the findings for Risk Management for the Travelers Insurance and how they are responding to the corrections they have requested. Commissioner Schrumpf set up a group for findings on issues with GovPro and the Advanced Imaging printing contract that the County has entered into for any suggestions or complaints. Chairman Amber is looking into the IT contract with Preferred IT with the County, badge ID policy, meeting with Allen County Commissioner for the Liberty Mill Rd project and the Commissioners are entertaining bids for Natural Gas supplies at the County with bids from three vendors Borders, Zoom and ProAlliance.

With no further business or comments from the public the meeting was suspended until 9am on Wednesday December 5, 2012 for a work session on the 2013 CEDIT Plan.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Don Amber, Chairman

George Schrumpf, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor