

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**MAY 3, 2010**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 3, 2010 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. In attendance were Vice Chairman Don Amber and Tom Rethlake. Chairman Michael D. Schrader was absent. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, County Sanitarian Scott Wagner, Sheriff Mark Hodges, GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, Community Corrections Coordinator Paula Worden, Thomas Ebetino, Erica Ebetino and Post and Mail reporter Chris Meyers. Vice Chairman Amber called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND VENDOR PAYABLES:** The minutes of April 19, 2010 shall be amended to read that a letter will be sent to the Department of Homeland Security stating the county's concern in receiving less than the 50% of salary reimbursement as stated in the original agreement. With that being noted, the minutes of April 19 and vendor payables for May 3, 2010 were approved as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF WORK RELEASE PROGRAM:** Paula Worden was present to request disposing of old exercise equipment at the Work Release Facility. Worden would like to use Craig's List to dispose of the equipment. She has checked with the State Board of Accounts and there were no objections to this type of disposal. If the use of Craig's List is successful, the money would be used to purchase new exercise equipment. The commissioners gave approval to handle the situation as requested by Worden. It was reported by Worden that there are currently sixty participates in the Work Release Program with thirty-five being on home detention. The Superior Court Drug & Alcohol Program recently went through a review by the Indiana Judicial Center and passed with no problems. The next review will be held in four years. Worden presented a proposal regarding the relocation of Community Correction offices to the Work Release Facility. There is ample space on the second floor to accommodate the offices. No action was taken on the request.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENT:** The South Whitley Plan Commission is asking for a replacement for Gary Hicks who has resigned. Larry Tackitt would like to be considered as Hicks' replacement. After discussion, Rethlake moved, seconded by Amber, to appoint Larry Tackitt to the South Whitley Plan Commission with a term expiring January 1, 2012. The motion carried 2/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Michael Barton discussed the fact that the Jobs Bill is currently on hold and at this point no projects will be moving forward. The use of the milling machine was discussed along with other road repair projects for the spring. A new highway truck will be arriving in about two weeks. The summer mowing crews are starting and summer work hours will start in June and run through the end of August.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR REPORT:** Amy Crickmore presented a Revised Schedule of Benefits from Phillips Financial Group regarding the new 30-day waiting period for health insurance benefits. Rethlake moved, seconded by Amber, to sign the new Schedule. The motion passed 2/0. Crickmore stated that she is in need of a new copier and is obtaining quotes. Two requests to use the courthouse lawn were presented. The Elks Lodge will hold a Flag Day Ceremony on June 12 and Old Settlers will be June 21-June 26. Rethlake moved to approve both requests. The motions were seconded by Amber and passed with 2/0 votes. The cell phone contract has been discussed for the past several months since AT&T bought Centennial Wireless. Crickmore has worked with representatives from AT&T, Centennial and Verizon and offered that AT&T will be the most economical cell phone provider. After further discussion, Rethlake moved, seconded by Amber, to engage AT&T as the county's cell phone provider. The motion passed 2/0. Vice Chairman Amber approached the possibility of the county paying \$600 for Crickmore to attend Leadership Whitley County classes. Rethlake moved, seconded by Amber, to allow Crickmore's tuition, in the amount of \$600, to be paid by the county for her to attend Leadership Whitley County classes. The motion carried 2/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF A JUNK AND TRASH VIOLATION:** Scott Wagner was present, along with Thomas and Erica Ebetino, to discuss the possible extension of the compliance period covered by a Junk and Trash Violation. Wagner states that the property clean up has improved, but there is still more work that needs done. The Ebetino's are requesting an extension of thirty days. Wagner stated that he would be in favor of the extension if all of the patio furniture is put away or be in use; tarp all of the wood that is piled behind the pole barn and put away bikes and gas grills. Ebetino sells/repairs salvaged items. Rethlake moved, seconded by Amber, to grant an extension to June 1, 2010 to become compliant. The motion carried 2/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF SICK DAY PROPOSAL:** Dan Weigold was present to offer the possibility of starting a policy for transferring sick days. Employees with a large number of accumulated days could chose to donate a portion of those days to employees who, for various reasons, have used all their sick days. The transfer would be strictly voluntary, but could help out an employee who would have a real need. The matter was tabled until Chairman Michael Schrader returns.

**IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF RESERVES:** Sheriff Mark Hodges was present to explain that he had received a request from a local company for security during a proposed trucker's strike. It may involve about 100 man hours. Reserves would be used and the company is to reimburse any fuel costs incurred during the times of service.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** Vice Chairman Amber reported that he attended an eight-hour class on Community Development Block Grant Administration. He reported on an OCRA Planning Grant for Coesse. The courthouse gazebo is in need of repairs and will be closed until June 19. The cost of the repairs is estimated to be \$2560. Tom Rethlake reported that the Economic Development Corporation met recently to discuss the railroad spur needed for the new TIF District being created. The business requesting the spur would be paying the expenses involved.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned.

#### **WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Absent

Michael D. Schrader, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake, Member

Attest:

Linda J. Gerig, Auditor