

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 7, 2010

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday June 7, 2010 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. In attendance were Chairman Michael D. Schrader, Vice Chairman Don Amber and Tom Rethlake. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, County Attorney Dan Sigler, Brandon Forrester, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, Alan Tio, David Sewell, Dennis Wornick, Jon Eggen, Don Sexton, Susie Sexton, Pat Heinbaugh, Bill Heinbaugh, Sherman Davis, Jennifer Zartman-Romano, Teresa Bills, Jerry Workman, Tom Winebrenner, Stan Peters, Priscilla Peters, Paula Worden, Amy Motter and Post and Mail reporter Chris Meyers. Chairman Schrader called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting started with several residents present regarding an issue of geese eradication at the Tri-Lakes area in Whitley County. Residents were allowed to make their comments, but were instructed that the Commissioners have no jurisdiction over the issue between the Tri-Lakes Home Owners Association and the Department of Natural Resources.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND VENDOR PAYABLES: The minutes of May 17 and the vendor payables for June 7 were approved as presented.

IN THE MATTER OF PIER AT BLUE LAKE: Jon Eggen of the Department of Natural Resources was present to discuss an issue with a pier at the island in Blue Lake. The pier is used to transport mowing equipment, etc. to the island. Navigation is being blocked by the pier and ownership of the island needs to be established for permission to remove the pier. Engineer Brandon Forrester stated that the plat does not designate the island as belonging to Whitley County. Mr. Eggen took that information and will continue to work with property owners to find a solution.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Dan Sigler was present to update the Board of Commissioners on the work he is doing for the county. Sigler has been busy with Junk and Trash Violations that need to have further action taken in the courts. A deed was presented from the Department of Natural Resources for the properties being donated to Whitley County. The deeds will transfer ownership of the Tri-Lakes Fish Hatchery and 7.04 acres in the West half of Section 12 of Thorncreek Township. A Quit Claim Deed was presented for signing regarding the previous Senior Center building which will release any interest that may be held by the commissioners. Rethlake moved, seconded by Amber to approve the signing of the deed. The motion passed 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Michael Barton was present to discuss the Summer Road Plan and related costs and funding sources. That department is using a rented milling machine for the month of June. Barton feels the milling that will be done during the month will be all the department can handle for this season, so the machine will not be rented for the second month as previously discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION: Alan Tio presented the annual report for EDC. The Corporation remains very active in economic development and Tio explained services, operations and initiatives going forward.

IN THE MATTER OF ZONING AMENDMENT: David Sewell, along with representatives of the petition, was present to request that 2.76 acres at the southwest corner of CR 800 East and State Road 14 in Section 12 of Jefferson Township be amended from AG, Agricultural District to the GC, General Commercial District. The Plan Commission held a public hearing and voted 8/0 to recommend approval of the petition to the Board of Commissioners. Ordinance No. 2010-06, An Ordinance Amending The Zoning Ordinance To Reclassify Certain Property, was introduced. After further discussion, Rethlake moved, seconded by Amber to approve Ordinance No. 2010-06. The motion passed 3/0. (See Ordinance No. 2010-06 on file in the auditor's office)

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Chairman Schrader stated that the vendor for the replacement of the Courthouse windows has received the frames and is installing the glass in the frames. The window replacement should start in approximately two weeks. Vice Chairman Amber reported that the museum has a display case to be placed in the Government Center. The museum will rotate historical displays relating to the history of Whitley County.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Paula Worden and Amy Motter were present to discuss the results of the Whitley County Corrections Advisory Board meeting. That Board voted to make a favorable recommendation to the Board of Commissioners regarding the

possible relocation of Whitley County Community Corrections to the Work Release Facility. Worden was asked by her Board about obtaining quotes for a new phone system, but was informed of the possibility of voiding the current warranty for the County's new phone system. Rethlake moved, seconded by Amber, to compose a letter to the Board and have chairman Schrader sign on behalf of the county commissioners stating the position on the phone system. The motion passed 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR REPORT: Amy Crickmore presented a Short-Term Disability request for an employee based on current policies. The employee will require approximately 18 days amounting to \$900. Amber moved, seconded by Rethlake to approve the request. The motion carried 3/0. Crickmore reported that the new cell phones have been received and a representative from AT&T will be here to do training. Discussion was held briefly on the starting of Sick Pay Bank, but further research needs to be done. The matter was tabled for now.

IN THE MATTER OF LIBRARY BOARD: A letter was received from Janet Scank, Director of the Peabody Public Library, regarding a replacement to fulfill the current term of Robert Brittain due to his death. The name of David Mullins was submitted for consideration. Rethlake moved, seconded by Amber, to appoint David Mullins to fulfill the term of Robert Brittain, which would have ended June 30, 2010 and to a four-year term of his own if he would choose to serve. The motion passed 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Dennis Warnick presented a request to rename the Whitley County Government Center to the Marshall-Gates Whitley County Government Center. After discussion of the matter, it was offered by the commissioners, that along with Governor Gates' picture already displayed, a picture of Thomas R. Marshall could be displayed along side. This seemed to be an agreeable solution and Warnick will make arrangements to discuss the matter with the Historical Museum to provide the picture of Thomas R. Marshall.

IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT REQUESTS: A utility permit request submitted by Verizon was approved for work to be done on 600 North between US 33 and 900 E.

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

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Michael D. Schrader, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake, Member

Attest:

Linda J. Gerig, Auditor