

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 5, 2009

The Whitley County Commissioners met Monday January 5, 2009 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. In attendance were Chairman Tom Rethlake, Michael D. Schrader and Don Amber. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting was Auditor Linda Gerig, County Attorney Dan Sigler, Planning Director David Sewell, William Overdeer, County Sanitarian Scott Wagner, GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold, Gary Harris, Fred Freeman, Eloise Freeman, Amanda Esterline, Pat Bowers, Ben Lortie, Stephani Lorti, Dave Lorti, Tim Pitts, Dale Mosher, Nancy Prickett and Post and Mail reporter TJ Hemlinger. Chairman Rethlake called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of December 15 were approved as presented.

IN THE MATTER OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Michael Schrader nominated Tom Rethlake for Chairman. Don Amber seconded the nomination and the vote was 3/0. Don Amber nominated Michael Schrader for Vice Chairman and Tom Rethlake seconded the nomination. The vote was 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Dan Sigler reported that no progress has been made on the outstanding NIPSCO Utility Permit requests.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: The commissioners worked on 2009 Committee assignments.

IN THE MATTER OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Vice Chairman Schrader moved to appoint William Overdeer to the Region III-A Board of Directors of 2009. The motion was seconded by Amber and the vote was 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF PLAN COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS: The commissioners were notified that their appointment to the Columbia City Plan Commission, Deb Roy, is unable to renew her term and at this time there is no replacement. The commissioner appointment to the Churubusco Plan Commission, Donna Tom, does wish to renew her term effective January 1, 2009. Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to appoint Donna Tom to another term on the Churubusco Plan Commission.

IN THE MATTER OF EEL RIVER GREENWAY TASK FORCE: Barry Yeakle was present to seek an answer from a letter sent to the commissioners in September regarding four parcels in Union and Smith Townships. The State currently holds ownership to the abandoned railway beds and will deed them to the county. The task force is requesting that the county accept the parcels and then deed them over to the task force. Yeakle states there are no plans at this time to run the bike trail to the east, but the task force would take over the parcels anyway. Many residents were present to voice opposition to the building of the trails to the west from Columbia City towards South Whitley. Commissioner Amber will investigate the parcels located in his district and report back on January 20. The commissioners will make a decision on the parcels at that time.

IN THE MATTER OF GPS UNIT: Sanitarian Scott Wagner was present to explain that the hand held GPS unit he uses to locate wells and septic systems can no longer be upgraded and it needs replaced. The price quoted from the supplier is \$5935 plus cost of warranty. Wagner was asked to get a firm quote and then the matter would be discussed with county council. Wagner explained that a ruling has been made by Superior Court regarding the Junk and Trash Ordinance violation against Otto Boshett, Jr. The ruling was in favor of the county and Boshett will be financially responsible for all costs incurred in the defense of this violation.

IN THE MATTER OF CEDIT REQUEST: GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold was present to ask for support in requesting \$20,000 from the 2009 CEDIT Plan. Schrader moved, seconded by Amber to support the request to county council. The motion passed 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF DRUG FREE INDIANA: Dale Mosher and Nancy Prickett presented the 2009 annual budget for Whitley County Drug-Free Indiana and the disbursement of those monies to various organizations. The funds available were \$48,875.62 of which \$46,283.42 was disbursed. There is an application process that must be completed and then reviewed by members of the finance committee. The balance of \$2,592.20 can be used for organizations that reapply after being denied the first time.

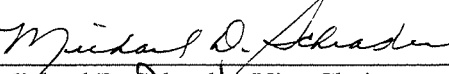
IN THE MATTER OF SHORT-TERM DISABILITY REQUEST: County Coordinator Amy Crickmore presented an employee's short-term disability request. The request is for twelve weeks and amounts to \$3,000.00 Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to approve the request. The motion passed 3/0.

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

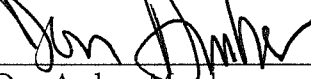
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Tom Rethlake, Chairman

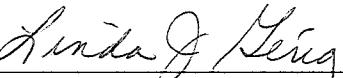


Michael D. Schrader, Vice Chairman



Don Amber, Member

Attest:



Linda J. Gerig, Auditor