

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**JANUARY 20, 2009**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 due to Martin Luther King Day being observed on Monday, January 19. The meeting was held in the Commissioners Room on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. In attendance were Chairman Tom Rethlake, Vice Chairman Michael D. Schrader and Don Amber. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, County Attorney Dan Sigler, Sheriff Mark Hodges, GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold, County Treasurer Lisa Richmond, Deputy Auditor Vicky Schrader, Charles Bevington, Barry Yeakle, Betty Wilkinson, Galen Wilkinson, Chad Burch, Erin Martin, Kathy Shively, Jennifer Romano 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 AND VENDOR PAYABLES:** The minutes of January 5 and vendor payables for January 20, 2009 were approved as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF ASSESSMENT PROPOSALS:** Proposals were received for 2009 Annual Adjustments and New Construction as advertised by County Assessor Angela Adams. Bids were received from Indiana Assessment Service and Accurate Assessments. Indiana Assessment Service proposed for 2009 New Construction, \$10,461.50 calculated at \$17.15 per parcels based on estimated parcel permits. 2009 Annual Adjustments proposed at \$27,287 calculated at \$1.70 per parcel based on 16,110 parcels. The per parcel cost of \$1.70 is for analyzing sales data to determine a trending factor and conduct a ratio study on the sale properties based upon the established trending factor. If additional analysis is required, there would be an additional daily fee of \$300.00. The cost to assist with appeals would be \$500.00/day. Accurate Assessments proposed for 2009 New Construction, \$15,000 up to a maximum of 500 parcels. Over 500 parcels, \$30/per parcel would be charged. The cost for assisting with appeals would be \$500/day. 2009 Annual Adjustments fee proposed was \$32,000. The proposals were turned over to Assessor Adams and she will make her recommendation on February 2, 2009.

**IN THE MATTER OF BIKE TRAIL:** Commissioner Amber presented information he has assembled to date on the parcels of ground located in Smith and Union Townships. Amber would like more time to complete gathering information; therefore, the matter was tabled until February 2, 2009.

**IN THE MATTER OF GPS UNIT:** Sanitarian Scott Wagner was present to explain that he had been able to obtain only one quote on a new GPS Unit and will return on February 2, 2009.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT:** Dan Sigler reported that he has received a letter from Attorney Ben Gates regarding the transfer of the Etna Troy Community Center to the County. He will continue to work with Gates and keep the commissioners informed. Sigler had researched the position of the surveyor and stated that since there was no one on the ballot in last election, the current surveyor continues in that position unless replaced.

**IN THE MATTER OF SOUTH WHITLEY LIBRARY BOARD:** Citizen Betty Wilkinson was present to voice her concerns regarding the appointing of members to the South Whitley Library Board. Chairman Rethlake explained that the reliance falls on the librarian's recommendations. Mrs. Wilkinson was offered the opportunity to make a recommendation of her own the next time a board member is needed.

**IN THE MATTER OF NEW SHERIFF VEHICLES:** Sheriff Mark Hodges was present to explain that he will be asking county council for \$80,000 in cum cap funds to purchase three new sheriff vehicles. Three vehicles will be removed from inventory, two current patrol vehicles that will be replaced by new ones will be maintained in inventory as spare patrol cars and the vehicle currently used by the sheriff will be replaced and offered to another county department. Vice Chairman Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to recommend the appropriation of cum cap funds to county council for the new vehicles. The motion carried 3/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF WEBSITE HOSTING:** Mindy Hambrick of DesignFactore was present to discuss her company's qualifications in website hosting if the county would be interested in starting such a website.

**IN THE MATTER OF DRAINAGE BOARD ATTORNEY:** Dan Weigold was present to ask support for his request to county council for \$7500 for the Drainage Board Attorney for 2009. The amount appropriated for the 2009 budget had to be used to pay billings for 2008 services. A favorable recommendation will be taken to council on February 2.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR REPORT:** Amy Crickmore presented a request from Junior Achievement to use courthouse grounds and gazebo on August 1, 2009 for their annual car show. Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to approve the request. The motion carried 3/0. Crickmore explained that LifeWorks Counseling & Consulting, Inc. has approached her about a possible contract with the county. County employees currently receive counseling benefits through Family Care Center. Employees and their dependents receive eight counseling session per year with the county picking up the expense. LifeWorks is located at 6202 Constitution Drive in Fort Wayne, but also use the New Hope Wesleyan Church as a local option. Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to offer both Family Care Center and LifeWorks for counseling services for employees. The motion passed 3/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY INSURANCE PLAN:** Chad Burch and Erin Martin of Philips Financial were present to explain the self funded insurance plan that the county uses for health insurance. Due to having a new commissioner and county coordinator, the entire process of funding to filing claims and handling problem situations was discussed. Philips Financial is the broker/advisor that the county uses in its negotiations for health insurance.

As advertised, the commissioner meeting was recessed so that the Board of Finance could hold their yearly meeting.

Following the Board of Finance meeting, Chairman Rethlake reconvened the commissioner meeting.

**IN THE MATTER OF NORTHEAST INDIANA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP:** The contract for professional economic development services with Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership was discussed. The scope of services would include 1600 hours of direct marketing services and economic development activities for Whitley County. The term of the contract is January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. The amount for services for a one-year period is \$13,123. Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to approve the one-year contract in the amount of \$13,123 to be paid in one installment. The motion passed 3/0.

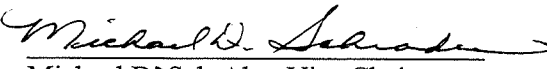
**IN THE MATTER OF BUILDING APPRAISAL UPDATES:** Auditor Gerig presented a notice from Universal Valuation, Inc. for appraisal values of county buildings. The cost to update current values is \$490.00. These values are passed on to Star Insurance as part of the Proof-of-Loss Service for property insurance. It was also noted that appraisals on the Fuel Facility and Museum Annex need updating. A quote of \$925 was also received from Universal Valuation, Inc. to do the update.

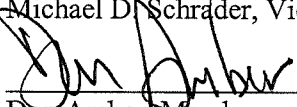
A short discussion was held on establishing a new sick day policy, but no decision was made.

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

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Tom Rethlake, Chairman

  
Michael D. Schrader, Vice Chairman

  
Don Amber, Member

Attest:

  
Linda J. Gerig, Auditor