

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 1, 2009

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 1, 2009 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners 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, Scott Darley, Richard Bagan, Jeff Gust, Sheriff Mark Hodges, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, John Barrett, EMS Director Duane Ginder, Charles Acheson, EDC President Alan Tio, Chandler Kidd 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 CLAIMS: The minutes of May 18 and vendor claims for June 1 were approved as presented.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Dan Sigler is working on the issue of a temporarily suspended employee. Sigler noted, in the matter of CEDIT payments to units involved, new legislation recently passed stating that the auditor "shall" distribute CEDIT funds within ten days of receipt from the State. The current contractual agreements are July and December. The Fuel Facility Agreement is still with the School Board Attorney with no follow up at this time. County Coordinator Amy Crickmore inquired on the responsibility of the county to supply hands-free devices for cell phones. Sigler stated, after referring to the new Employee Policy Book, that the county has no responsibility to provide these devices.

IN THE MATTER OF CEDIT REQUEST: Richard Bagan, Scott Darley and Alan Tio were present to discuss the request made for funding on May 4, 2009. Tio explained that the EDC is working with Bagan, Inc. to obtain possible funding from State programs. After further discussion, Rethlake moved to approve \$25,000 to be used for technology. The motion was seconded by Schrader and passed with a 3/0 vote. The remaining \$125,000 of the original request may be included in the 2010 CEDIT Plan.

IN THE MATTER OF ERT VAN: Sheriff Mark Hodges was present with a letter from the Columbia City Police Department requesting the transfer of the ERT (Emergency Response Team) van to them. The county's ERT has been disbanded and the city currently maintains the van. Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to allow Chairman Rethlake to sign over the van's title to the Columbia City Police Department.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Michael Barton was present to discuss current road work being done by that department. Future plans for road repairs were also discussed, along with the public meeting that will be held at the Government Center on June 3, 2009. Barton also inquired about the interest earned on MVH monies. Barton proposed to the Board that all government employees, who are called away from their families to work an emergency condition on Christmas and Thanksgiving, receive double pay plus the holiday pay which would create triple time pay for any hours worked on those holidays. No further discussion was held on the proposal. Chairman Rethlake asked Barton to work with Mark Sturtevant on an OSHA Plan for the highway department. Also, a request for top soil to be taken to the landfill site was made by Rethlake. Mr. Charles Acheson commented that the current method of dust control on county roads is not working.

IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION: President Alan Tio presented a recap of 2008 activities and explained marketing methods currently being used to expand economic development in Whitley County. Tio also presented the 2010 budget. A new Investment Committee is being formed to review CEDIT requests. This committee will do an in depth analysis of the business requesting the funds before the approaching county council for the distribution of funds.

IN THE MATTER OF EMS BUILDING: EMS Director Duane Ginder was present to discuss the future of a new EMS building. Parkview Hospital will be constructing a new hospital, but not include housing for EMS units. Property will be provided if the county wishes to construct a building. Ginder has applied for Stimulus Money, but with no guarantee, he is also seeking grant possibilities. Discussion will continue on the matter.

IN THE MATTER OF COMPENSATORY TIME: The Whitley County Commissioners agreed to a 60-day extension to the policy for using compensatory time. The County Commissioners will allow employees with compensatory time built up to use the time after using vacation time. Employees will have up until July 31st, 2009 to use vacation time before compensatory time. This should give each employee enough time to make arrangements to use

their time. Starting August 1st, 2009 all employees will be required to follow the new policy. This decision was supported by a motion from Amber and seconded by Schrader. The vote was 3/0.

IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT REQUESTS: The following requests were approved:

- United Telephone Company Job No. 09080593 on CR 100 South east of US 30
- United Telephone Company Job No. 09080559 on CR 300 South west of CR 500 East.

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Tom Rethlake, Chairman

Michael D. Schrader, Vice Chairman

Don Amber

Attest:

Linda J. Gerig, Auditor