

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**JUNE 15, 2009**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday June 15, 2009 in the Commissioner's Room located 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 Attorney Dan Sigler, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Community Corrections Supervisor Paula Worden, Scott Pratt, Ken Gaffer, Sandy Ringler, Chad Burch, Dale Haupert, Patton Cox, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, Engineer Brandon Forrester, Charles Acheson 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 June 1 and vendor claims for June 15, 2009 were approved as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT:** Dan Sigler reported the Fuel Facility Agreement has not been finalized. Chairman Rethlake asked that Sigler expedite the approval before the beginning of the new school year. Sigler stated that he has received notification of a small claims suit against the county treasurer filed by a disgruntled tax payer. Brandon Forrester was present with the Designation of County Engineer To Perform Certain Functions of County Surveyor Pursuant To IC 36-9-27-30(d). This document has been approved and signed by members of the Drainage Board and is presented now for approval and signatures of the commissioners. Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to approve and sign the document. The motion carried 3/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS:** Paula Worden presented a report on the activity in that department. There are currently fifty-one participants in the Work Release Program. A new State Community Correction director has been hired and new guidelines are being implemented. Current facilities will have one year to comply with the new guidelines. The Youth Improvement Center will be relocating to the Etna Troy Community Center in July and should be in place by the first of August coordinating with the new school year. The rent will be \$600/month which is more than what is being paid now, but the building space is much larger. Worden presented a contract with Smith-Green School Corporation committing to four students for the new school year. Schrader moved, seconded by Amber, to allow Chairman Rethlake to sign the contract. The motion carried 3/0. The possibility of Transitional Housing is being discussed by the Community Correction Board. This option would allow offenders, who have finished the program, to pay to remain at the facility due to having no where else to go. The Committee is considering this option and should make their decision in September. Worden explained that the current grant pays salaries for full-time employees. A current part-time employee will be changing to full-time in July.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORT:** Chairman Rethlake stated that he had attended a Wage Scale Hearing for the City of Columbia City regarding the expansion of the interceptor sewer project. Rethlake reported, from information submitted by Maintenance Supervisor Dennis Fenker, a schedule of building maintenance items that will be needing attention in the next three to five years. This report will be forwarded to county council. The Historical Society has contacted Rethlake regarding posting signs designating Lincoln Highway as an historical highway. The Society will furnish the signs and the highway department will post the signs. Amber moved, seconded by Schrader, to accept the signs and have them posted. The motion carried 3/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF PROPERTY INSURANCE PROPOSAL:** Representatives of Silveus Insurance Partners were present with an insurance proposal for commercial property and general liability. The proposal will be studied further along with others as the August 1 renewal date approaches.

**IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Michael Barton was present with a report on the highway department. The department has changed to summer hours. The department employees will be working 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Fridays.

**IN THE MATTER OF HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE:** Chad Burch, Dale Haupert and Patton Cox were present for the annual review of the health insurance plan. Employees continue to be very responsible with the plan and following the guidelines.

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

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Tom Rethlake, Chairman

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Michael D. Schrader, Vice Chairman

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Don Amber

Attest:

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Linda J. Gerig, Auditor