

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 5, 2010**

Whitley County Council met in regular session on Tuesday January 5, 2010 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Council members in attendance were Chairman Thomas E. Western, Vice Chairman Kim Wheeler, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, John Barrett, William Overdeer and James E. Banks. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, Mike Schrader, Tom Rethlake, Niki Trier, Lamonte Rhoades, Doug Randol, Roland Fritts, Gene Heckman, Frank Kessler, Alan Tio, John Sampson, Cindy Barnett, Dave Addison, Michael Barton, Post & Mail reporter Chris Meyers and Jennifer Zartman-Romano. Chairman Western called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** The minutes of December 8, 2009 were corrected to state that Kim Wheeler and Glen LaRue voted against purchasing solid colored sheriff vehicles on November 3, 2009. With the correction being noted, Barrett moved seconded by Overdeer to approve the minutes. The motion carried 7/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST:** Alan Tio, Doug Randol and Roland Fritts were present to discuss possible tax abatement for Undersea Sensors Systems, Inc. (USSI). USSI supplies sonobuoys and surveillance systems for domestic and international anti-submarine warfare. The company expanded its business in 2009 to include communications equipment for first responders and the manufacturing of mass notification and acoustic hailing products. The company plans to spend \$2,200,000 in expanding real property improvements and adding \$1,400,000 in new manufacturing equipment. The projected completion date for the real improvements is July 31, 2010 and manufacturing equipment is September 30, 2010. The company employs over 300 employees and plans to add additional skilled technicians and quality associates. Resolution No. 2010-01 was introduced for approval. The Resolution would grant a deduction from assessed valuations for a period of not to exceed ten years. After discussion, Bayman moved, seconded by Overdeer to approve Resolution No. 2010-01 granting the requested ten year abatement. The motion carried 7/0. (See Resolution No. 2010-01 of file in the Auditor's Office).

**IN THE MATTER OF EDC INVESTMENT BOARD:** President of the Whitley County EDC, Alan Tio and Lamonte Rhodes were present to discuss a request from SubdivisionINFO, a marketing services company connecting land developers and builders with new home buyers. Rhoades is a client of the EDC sponsored business incubation program and is planning to participate in the program's FastTrac New Ventures program that begins in January 2010. The company's expansion is anticipated to create 25 to 30 new jobs in Whitley County by 2015. The EDC Investment Board reviewed a request for \$50,000 in CEDIT funds to support this request. The Investment Board recommends the County allocate \$50,000 to an existing Region III-A Revolving Loan Program to support a loan to SubdivisionINFO through the Region III-A Program. Region III-A does not have \$50,000 available to lend, but can provide administration of the loan. The company would be required to complete and submit an application to Region III-A. The loan would be administered according to the program guidelines (3% interest, five-year term). The Investment Board recommends that the loan require a personal guarantee and that the loan is nontransferable and would be paid in full upon any change in company ownership. The Board recommends that the Commissioners and Council formalize this agreement in a contract signed by all parties involved. After discussion of the matter, council members requested to have Alan Tio, John LeFever and a representative of Region III-A present at the February 2, 2010 meeting.

**IN THE MATTER OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** In reorganizing of the County Council for 2010, James Bayman nominated Kim Wheeler as Chairman. The motion was seconded by James Banks. The nominations for Chairman were closed. The motion for Wheeler as Chairman carried 7/0. James Banks nominated John Barrett as Vice Chairman and the motion was seconded by James Bayman. With nominations being closed for Vice Chairman, the motion for Vice Chairman carried 7/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF EXTENSION OFFICE:** Cindy Barnett and Dave Addison were present to request money budgeted in Council's budget for Program Assistants. Changes in staffing have been worked through and they would like to hire a part-time Program Assistant. Overdeer moved, seconded by Banks, to allow the money to be moved to the Extension Office Budget. The motion carried 7/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF YOUTH IMPROVEMENT CENTER:** Niki Trier was present to ask permission to fill a vacated teacher position at the Troy Center. Western moved, seconded by Banks, to allow the position to be filled. The motion carried 7/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF HIRING FREEZE:** A hiring freeze that was put in place during the 2010 budget workshops was lifted with a motion from Banks and a second from Barrett. The motion carried 6/1 with Bayman casting the No vote. It was discussed that all new hires would have to go through the hiring process anyway, so there was no need to continue with the freeze.

**IN THE MATTER OF NEI REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP:** John Sampson of the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership presented information on how the Partnership is helping the ten member counties with Economic Development. Sampson fielded questions from council members.

**IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:** The following requests for additional appropriations were presented.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE**

Whereas, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget; now, therefore: Sec. 1. Be it ordained (resolved) by the Whitley County Council of Whitley County, Indiana that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to laws governing the same:

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Amt Requested</u>	<u>Amt Approved</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
County General	\$3500.00	\$3500.00	-7-	-7-	-0-
	Motion: Bayman	Second: LaRue			
Health Fund	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	-7-	-7-	-0-
	Motion: Overdeer	Second: Western			

**Whitley County Council**

Kim Wheeler – signed	Thomas Western – signed
John Barrett – signed	William Overdeer – signed
James Bayman – signed	James E. Banks – signed
Glen LaRue – signed	Attest: Linda J. Gerig – signed

**IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Supervisor Michael Barton explained that two new side plows have been delivered. Bids will be received on January 19 for a new single axle truck. Barton will be scheduling a meeting on the Federal Aid program for the East County Line Road.

**IN THE MATTER OF FUEL FACILITY FUND:** Auditor Gerig explained that the State Board of Accounts is asking that an Internal Services Fund be created for the revenue and expenses of the fuel facility. Gerig asked that Rainy Day Funds be used to establish the fund. It was estimated that \$100,000 would be needed. Overdeer moved, seconded by LaRue, to allow Rainy Day Funds be used to establish the Fuel Facility Fund. The motion passed 7/0. Gerig has requested that County Attorney Dan Sigler compose a Resolution establishing the new fund.

**IN THE MATTER OF 2010 BUDGET REDUCTION:** Auditor Gerig has received the 2010 Budget Order and informed council members that the General Fund needs to be reduced by \$290,546. Gerig stated that the Liability and Property Insurance line item could be reduced by \$250,546 and that the \$40,000 in Computer Maintenance could be moved to the Cum Cap Fund. Overdeer moved, seconded by Western, to allow the budget cuts as presented. The motion passed 7/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORT:** Michael Schrader reported that information continues to be received on the heating project for the Jail. Schrader explained that the Commissioners are bringing a favorable recommendation for the signing of the Contract for Professional Economic Development with Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership. A lengthy discussion was held and the matter was tabled until February 2, 2010. Schrader explained that four bids were received for the replacement of the Museum’s furnace. Monies from the 2009 budget could be encumbered to help cover the expense. Three quotes were received for the replacement of the county’s phone system in the jail and

the Government Center. Commissioners are recommending the quote from SDS Communications and are requesting the use of Cum Cap Funds for the funding. After further discussion, Banks moved, seconded by Barrett, to allow Cum Cap Funds to fund the replacement of the phone system. The motion carried 7/0.

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

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Kim Wheeler, Chairman

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John Barrett, Vice Chairman

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James Bayman

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Glen LaRue

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Thomas E. Western

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William Overdeer

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James E. Banks

Attest:

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Linda J. Gerig, Auditor