

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 20, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, July 20, 2015 at 1:00 pm in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Tom Rethlake, Don Amber, and George Schrumpf. Others in attendance were County Attorney Dan Sigler, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Treasurer Laurell Hodges, Brandon Forrester, Scott Wagner, Michael Barton, Tom Western, Nick Mehdikhan, Leslee Derbeck, and Ryan Chapman from STAR Insurance, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Recorder April Whetstone, and Bill Etzler.

Chairman Rethlake opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Dan Sigler stated that he has reviewed contracts recently for several different departments and he has approved all of them. The Commissioners requested Attorney Sigler do some research on property judgments. They would like to hire a company to do a ground and water sample on a specific property and Scott Wagner from the Health Department stated it would be less than \$1,000 for them to do so. The Commissioners also reported to Attorney Sigler that the County's liability deductible went from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

IN THE MATTER OF OPENING BIDS FOR COURT ORDERED CLEAN UP AND DEMOLITION: Scott Wagner from the Health Department reported that there are three different properties that have issues and need to either be cleaned up and/or demolished. The first properties that have a junk and trash ordinance violation or a bid to demolish are:

Robert Heaton, 3268 West US 30, Columbia City, IN 46725

- Items need to be removed: non-running motor homes, various junk and trash, household garbage.

Ralph Carter, Lot #3, 885 West Business 30, Columbia City, IN 46725

- Items need to be removed: Complete mobile home.

LeeAnn Hinzman, 3360 West State Road 14, Columbia City, IN 46725

- Items to be removed: Misc. junk and trash, the house demolished and the ground graded, septic tank and well abandoned.

C & W Excavating gave a bid estimate for all three jobs. The Heaton property was estimated at \$6,500, the Carter property was estimated at \$8,000, and the Hinzman property was estimated at \$10,100. Earth Pros, Inc. in Fort Wayne gave their bid for only the Hinzman property which was an estimate for \$8,350. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the bid from C & W Excavating for Heaton in the amount of \$6,500, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber also made a motion to approve the bid from Earth Pros, Inc. for Hinzman in the amount of \$8,350, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners did not approve any bids for the Carter property at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF BRIDGE #76 UPDATE: County Engineer Brandon Forrester gave an update on Bridge #76. He has a purchase order from Allen County that their funds have been approved for the project and he stated that the project will start on the Tuesday after Labor Day. The completion date from when it starts should take about three months. There will be signs put up a few weeks before the project starts to let people know that the bridge will be closed.

IN THE MATTER OF COMPENSATORY TIME DISCUSSION: County Coordinator Pamela Smith sent out an email to all of the department heads requesting their thoughts and opinions about comp time in writing. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that he would be willing to look into comp time and reconsider eliminating it. Commissioner Rethlake and Commissioner Amber agreed with him and what they would like to see is that every employee would be able to accumulate only forty hours of comp time total per year. They would have until December 1st to use the comp time that they have accumulated. Commissioner Rethlake stated that they would

discuss this further and make a decision at the next Commissioner meeting on August 3, 2015. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table this issue until the next meeting on August 3, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the July 6, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Schrumpf made one correction under “In Other Business”. Where it states that our deductible is going from \$25.00 to \$50.00 it should read \$25,000 to \$50,000. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the minutes with this correction, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claims were reviewed by the Commissioners and after review Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Highway Supervisor Michael Barton stated that there are no updates for the Highway Department at this time.

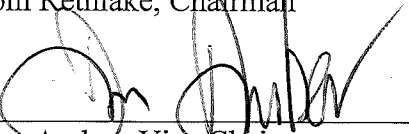
IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR: County Coordinator Pam Smith presented a permission to use County facilities to the Commissioners from the Whitley County Activities Committee. This request is for the County Employee Cookout on Friday, July 31, 2015 from 11:00 to 1:00pm on the Courthouse Lawn. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Pam also made her wage recommendation for 2016 to the Commissioners per statistics that she has researched. She recommended a 3% for full time employees for 2016 and presented the idea for the Commissioners to possibly, for 2016 only, use CEDIT funds to fund the 3% raises for everyone. After reviewing Pam’s request, Commissioner Amber made a motion to recommend a 3% raise to the County employees for 2016, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 2/1 vote with Rethlake voting against.

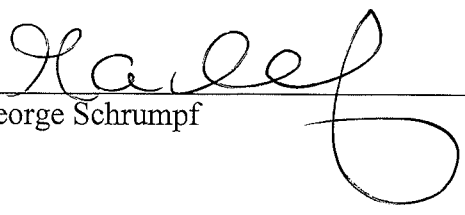
IN OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Schrumpf stated that he and the County Coordinator Pam Smith have looked into STAR Insurance for the County’s health insurance. There are many benefits to STAR’s insurance plan which include, after twelve months for transplant insurance with no claims, everything is covered. This is a fully insured program with a minimum savings of around \$300,000 and they do all of the ACA reporting requirements for the County. The discounts have also gone up with this insurance program. With no further comment, Commissioner Amber made a motion to accept STAR’s insurance proposal, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. In regard to dental coverage, it would be in the County’s best interest to switch to Principal Insurance and the premiums for employees would not change. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Principal for dental Insurance, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. The vision insurance is remaining the same for the County. There was another request to the Commissioners to block an address from the GIS website under Indiana IC code 36-1-8.5-7. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. A utility permit from Century Link was presented to the Commissioners. This permit is to place buried cable facilities, for plant improvements and service, for fiber optic cable to AG-Plus Raber. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the utility permit from Century Link, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber reported that they are going to be having a mush ball tournament in Churubusco and he would like to have a County team if possible. Commissioner Rethlake reported that there are 91 people at the Work Release facility which leaves only two beds left. The tax sale for 2015 is going to be on October 15th and at this time there are 58 properties. Commissioner Rethlake also reported that the landfill is something that the County is going to continuously pay for now and be responsible for the upkeep.


There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Tom Rethlake, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


George Schrumpf

Attest: 
Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor

