

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 3, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, August 3, 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, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton and Bill Etzler.

Chairman Rethlake opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: County Attorney Dan Sigler reported that there is a tort claim the County received for a garbage truck that caused an auto accident on a State highway. In regard to the pre-tax plan for the County, the administrator of the plan needs to be changed from the Auditor to the County Coordinator. In concern with liens, Robert Heaton is claiming that all of the RV's were not removed off of his property. Scott Wagner from the health department stated that they have been but he will look into it. Also, for the Hinzman property that the Commissioners approved Earth Pros to cleanup, Earth Pros would like to withdraw their bid and Scott Wagner reported that C & W Excavating will do the work for \$8,300 which is \$50 less than what Earth Pros estimate was for. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request for C & W Excavating to complete the cleanup work at the Hinzman property on State Road 14, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners requested that Attorney Sigler get a court order to check a specific property for ground/water samples to be tested.

IN THE MATTER OF EDC UPDATES: EDC President Jon Myers stated that he is looking into an OCRA grant to provide training to residents with rural Counties and they are looking at whether the County can partner with another county. Jon stated that he has had preliminary discussions with the Noble County EDC and they are willing to partner with us on the grant application. The application is due August 28, 2015 and the County would have to sign a memorandum of understanding. The areas of training the EDC is looking into is machining, equipment, maintenance, welding, etc. to help the businesses in the area that are having issues finding skilled workers.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the July 20, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the minutes, 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 reported to the Commissioners that the Highway budget for 2016 is basically the same with a few small changes for just under \$3 million. The Commissioners discussed the parking issue at Rail Connect Park with Michael. Michael stated that he is going to put "No Parking" signs up and the Sheriff's department will have to monitor it when possible. Michael informed the Commissioners that he is concerned with the amount that they have paid out this year for workers compensation claims. The worker's compensation claims for the highway department this year are up to \$110,000. The Commissioners requested that Michael speak to County Coordinator Pam Smith about this if he has any questions. Michael also reported that property owners on County Road 400 West are paying a portion of the cost to improve the road to make it a hard surface road.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR: County Coordinator Pam Smith had a request to use County facilities from Cry Out America on September 11, 2015 from 6:00 to 7:00. After discussion, Commissioner Amber made a motion to table this request, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Pam reported that on August 13th CJ's is giving County employees \$1 off on their order. She also stated that she is cancelling the County cell phone bill as of today and there will be thirteen stipends that the County will begin paying for \$30 each. In regard to insurance, new medical insurance cards have been distributed and new dental insurance cards will be delivered this week to employees.

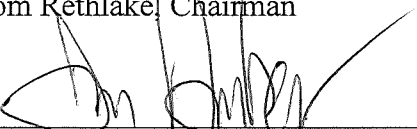
IN OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Rethlake presented the new Planning Director Victoria Chavez. Commissioner Amber reported that on August 12th a decision for a new EMA director will be made. Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented the voting locations for the Municipal and Special elections to be held between the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM in Whitley County on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the voting locations, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners discussed compensatory time and after much deliberation Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve 40 hours of compensatory time per calendar year total and it is to be used by December 1st of the current year and this is to be effective January 1, 2016. Commissioner Schrumpf seconded the motion and it passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Rethlake presented a request from Paula Worden to the Commissioners to approve the meeting dates for Community Corrections in 2016. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the meeting dates request, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Rethlake also announced that Community Corrections will have their open house on September 16, 2015 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Auditor Schinbeckler presented adopting a Public Safety Tax to help fund the County General budget for 2016 with the recommendation from UMBAUGH. Commissioner Amber made a motion to recommend a 0.25 rate, which is the max rate to the Council, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Scott Wagner from the Health department came back during the meeting in regard to the Heaton property and there was one RV that was not removed. C&W Excavating said they would lower the bid by \$500 due to the one RV not being taken off the property. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the lower bid, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.

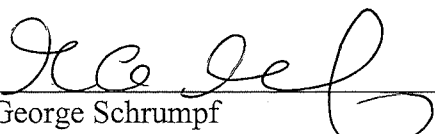
WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




Tom Rethlake, Chairman



Don Amber, Vice Chairman



George Schrumpf

Attest: 

Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor