

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 17, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, August 17, 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 Brian Everly from OmniSource, Mark Parker from Post & Mail, Planning Director Victoria Chavez, EDC President Jon Myers, Jeremy Wike from The Lighthouse, Joan Null from Whitley County Consolidated Schools, Butch Sterner and Jeff Szobody from SDS Communications, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Jeremy Sorenson, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton and Bill Etzler from Engineering Resources, Inc.

Chairman Rethlake opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COLUMBIA CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:** Planning Director Victoria Chavez presented the Columbia City Comprehensive Plan to the Commissioners. The draft of the Columbia City Comprehensive Plan 2015 Update was endorsed by the Columbia City Planning Commission on August 3, 2015. There are two strategies that may impact Whitley County that they are looking into. The two changes/strategies are the draft future land use map and the areas outside of Columbia City corporate boundaries that are being considered for annexation. The Commissioners stated that there is a two mile area outside of their City limits that it appears they want to annex. They stated that some of their plans could potentially be detrimental to the County in regard to the collection of property taxes.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LIGHTHOUSE:** Jeremy Wike from The Lighthouse stated that they are the County's transitional housing center with full rehabilitation. This year, they have lost grants which amounts to \$81,000 and without that they will not have the flexibility to keep people as long as needed. They usually house around 70 people per year and also work with the jail. Jeremy stated that because they lost the grant revenue, there have been local businesses that are giving them a three year commitment to help with their funding. After discussion, Commissioner Rethlake stated that the Commissioners would keep them in consideration for funding.

**IN THE MATTER OF TRIAD METALS:** Gary Ritson from Triad Metals could not attend the meeting. He spoke with Commissioner Schrumpf and stated that he is putting in a parking lot out at Rail Connect Park rather than having us put up "No Parking" signs. He is hoping this will keep the truck drivers from parking in that area if they have place to park.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Highway Director Michael Barton gave an update on the highway department. He reported that there is a sign that was hit on State Road 9 and it needs to be replaced. Michael stated that 700 N will be double sealed and the highway department just finished Old Trail Road today. Jeremy Sorenson attended the meeting due to some concerns at the intersection of 550 W and 700 N. The intersection was to be reconstructed such as cutting down the hill and realigning the road. Michael recommended putting speed limit signs up through that intersection to slow cars down. Jeremy stated that putting speed limit signs up were proposed three years ago but nothing was ever completed.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR:** County Coordinator Pam Smith handed paperwork to the Commissioners to show what a 1%, 2%, and a 3% wage increase would cost the County. She also presented a request to use the County facilities. This is for September 24, 2015 from 11AM to 2PM for an "On the Square Pop-Up Event". Electricity, the Courthouse lawn, and parking spots are all needed for this event. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, with City approval, to use County facilities for the Courthouse lawn only, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

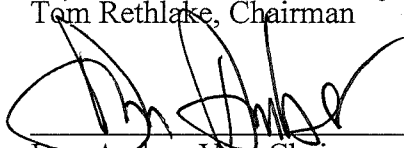
**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** EDC President Jon Myers presented a grant opportunity to the Commissioners for rural development. This grant would provide talent upgrades in certain areas for skilled workers and it is a multi-County application and the County would sign a cooperative agreement with Noble County. There was also a draft agreement for Lori Shipman and the County would need to provide \$31,250 matching funds for the grant. There is a two year period that the County could use the funds for rural development. Commissioner Amber made a motion to send to the County Attorney and approve upon his approval, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. County Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Commissioners that he is in need of a new vehicle for his field person. The vehicle was recently taken to the shop and needed \$2,400 in repairs but Brandon requested they only fix the safety concerns on the vehicle which was \$900. Over the last two years the truck has needed \$3,200 in repairs. The Commissioners would like Brandon to call City Chevrolet in Columbia City and ask for a quote. Commissioner Amber made a motion for Brandon to call City Chevrolet and table this matter until the next meeting, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote. Butch Sterner and Jeff Szobody from SDS came to speak with the Commissioners about the contract the County signed with SpyGlass. The company SpyGlass asked to go through the County's phones and see if there are any lines that we could disconnect to save money. Butch ended up doing the work and checking all of the phone lines instead of SpyGlass. The spreadsheet was also the same as what they had sent in 2012 when they first performed this service. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to not pay SpyGlass, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Auditor Schinbeckler presented a request for payment for a Government Headstone that was never ordered in error 21 years ago. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the payment, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Auditor Schinbeckler presented two utility permits to the Commissioners. The first permit was for CenturyLink to place buried cable on County Road 400 West, South of US 30, for a length of 178 ft. They provided a drawing to show where the cables would be placed. After review, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the utility permit for CenturyLink, seconded by Schrumpf, and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second permit was for TurnKey Network Solutions to bury cable, pedestals, and attachments adjacent or under County Road 800 East/West County line Road. After review, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the utility permit, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that Whitley County gave a contribution to the Ronald McDonald house with pop tabs we collected and OmniSource matched our contribution. Commissioner Rethlake reported that compensatory time has gone down 170 hours. He also reported that there are currently 100 inmates in the Jail and there are 79 at Work Release.


**IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The minutes from the August 3, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Amber, 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.

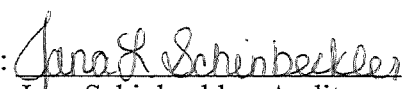
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Rethlake adjourned the meeting at 2:40 PM.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Tom Rethlake, Chairman

  
Don Amber, Vice Chairman

  
George Schrumpf

Attest:   
Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor