

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 7, 2015

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 7, 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 Don Amber and Vice Chairman George Schrumpf. Commissioner Rethlake was absent. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Paula Worden from Community Corrections, Scott Jones from 911, Dani Tippmann from the Historical Museum, Jon Myers from Whitley County EDC, Lou Matrisciano from Restoration Medical Polymers, Brian More from Restoration Medical Polymers, Tina Jagger from JT Counseling Group, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Library, Stanley Crew from WCCC, Nick Rupert from The Post & Mail, Tom Payne from IGS Energy, Julie Jensen-Kelley from WCCC, Amy Motter from Probation, EMA Director Amy Biggs and Scott Wagner from the Health Department.

Chairman Amber opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: County Attorney Dan Sigler announced that the parking space lease agreement has been sent to Billy Reffitt and he is waiting on a response. The Commissioners reviewed the Extension office agreement with Purdue University and Attorney Sigler also reviewed the document. The only two aspects of the document that were amended were the amount and the year of the contract. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote. Attorney Sigler also spoke about the bylaws of Whitley Memorial Hospital. He stated that Attorney Pete Mallers will come in January and go over the bylaws with the Commissioners.

IN THE MATTER OF THE FIELD OFFICER POSITION: Paula Worden, the Coordinator for Community Corrections, presented an employee requisition form to the Commissioners. The requisition form was to create a new position titled Field Officer. The position would be full time and the person who is hired would start in December of 2015. After review, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the position, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT 418007 ATTRACTION

INCENTIVES OFFER: EDC President Jon Myers presented Project 418007 to the Commissioners. The project is for Restoration Medical Polymers, LLC which is a company interested in coming to Whitley County. They presented a proposal to build a new manufacturing facility on Lot 8 of the Park 30 Business Center. They are requesting tax abatements for personal and real property. They are also requesting up to \$210,000.00 to help pay for improvements for the soil remediation of the site they would like to build on. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve \$90,000 from CEDIT fund and a transfer to pay it, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED UPGRADE TO COMMISSIONER'S ROOM:

Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented a grant that would update the audio and video system in the Commissioner's room. The upgrade would be done by Audio Lifestyles Video. The grant is for \$22,000.00 and it needs to be signed by Commissioners and sent to the State to get approval. Once this is approved, the County can begin purchasing the equipment needed. The County just needs to participate in District 3 health preparedness to receive the grant. This involves establishing a meeting place in the case of an emergency, which would become the Commissioner's room. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the upgrade to the commissioner's room, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE IGS ENERGY: Tom Payne from IGS Energy gave a commercial hedging report to the Commissioners. The report included the hedged summary, variable summary, and blended summary for the cost of gas. Tom reported that the 2014/2015 fuel price

went up and he is requesting that the Commissioners give approval to extend the contract with IGS Energy. The Commissioners stated that Attorney Sigler would need to review the contract before they gave their approval.

IN THE MATTER OF JT COUNSELING GROUP: Tina Jagger from JT Counseling Group presented her services to the Commissioners. JT Counseling Group offers Christian and traditional services for counseling which could be individual/family services, group services, or consulting services. This company is covered under the County's insurance and it is an alternative from the Bowen Center. After discussion, Commissioner Schrumpf made a favorable pass, contingent on Attorney Sigler's approval, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF WIRELESS CONFERENCE PHONE QUOTE: EMA Director Amy Biggs presented an estimate from SDS Communications for a wireless conference phone quote. There are several departments that would like to have a 4G system installed rather than a 3G for the basement at the Jail. The proposed system will provide coverage in Dispatch, EMA, Probation, Squad Room, Administrative Offices, Booking, and staff dining areas. This would allow for these coverage areas to receive and make phone calls, which they are not able to do now. The departments that are willing to split the cost estimate from SDS Communications for \$4,925.70 are the Sheriff, Probation, EMA, and E911. Amy is requesting the Commissioners contribute as well, so the bill can be split five ways. Each department would then have to pay \$985.14. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve wireless conference phones with transfer from longevity, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF PART TIME POSITION REQUEST: Dani Tippmann from the Museum reported to the Commissioners that the building is complete for the Museum and they have begun moving documents to the new building. Dani stated that she would like a part time person for the rest of the year making \$11.51 per hour and working twenty-one hours per week. Commissioner Schrumpf made a favorable pass to Council to approve the part time position, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF RESCINDING ORDINANCE 2015-05: Ordinance 2015-05 changed the Personnel Policies Handbook by changing the Three Year Wage Scale Policy 3.5.1. Since this change, the Personnel Committee has reviewed the policy change and now recommends that the policy be rescinded due to employee turnover. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve rescinding the ordinance, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF REAPPOINTMENTS: In regard to the Drainage Board reappointments, Steve Sickafoose accepted the request for re-appointment as a three year member of the Drainage board. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to reappoint Steve Sickafoose to the Drainage board, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote. For the Board of Zoning and Appeals, Commissioner Amber made a motion to reappoint Commissioner Schrumpf as the Commissioner member, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 2/0 vote. In regard to the South Whitley Plan Commission, Wayne Swender has requested to be reappointed to his current role on the South Whitley Board of Zoning Appeals. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to reappoint Mr. Swender, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

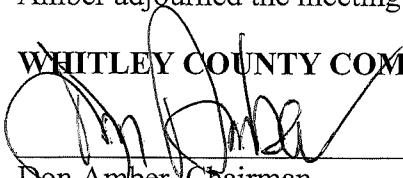
IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR: County Coordinator Pam Smith gave the Commissioners a reminder of the employee recognition celebration on Friday, December 11, 2015 from 11 AM to 1 PM. There are twenty-five employees who have been working for the County for five years. Commissioner Amber stated that we have found sponsors to help fund the event. In regard to the Personnel Committee, they have refactored a job at the Sheriff's department from Account and Systems Coordinator to Office Manager. The position would be going from a COMOT to a PAT position. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to make a favorable pass to Council to approve the refactoring of the position, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 2/0 vote.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the November 16, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schrumpf, and carried with a 2/0 vote. The claims were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 2/0 vote.

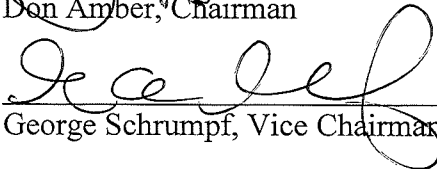
IN OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Amber announced the Commissioners received a Certificate of Appreciation from Whitley County Council on Aging for their contributions in 2015. Commissioner Amber also announced that the Proclamation of the Bicentennial Flag and the raising of the flag will be on Friday, December 11, 2015 at 12:00 PM. Paula Worden from Community Corrections requested permission from the Commissioners to trade in their fifteen passenger van for a 2014 Dodge Caravan. There was some wind damage to the passenger van and they would like to purchase the new vehicle for \$12,500.00. The Commissioners gave their approval but asked that the price of the new vehicle be within reason. Stanley Crum gave an update on Wood Land Lakes. He reported that Steuben has given a donation and NIPSCO is working with WLL to put up poles for power lines on twenty seven farms with easements. After the Wood Land Lakes update, EMA Director Amy Biggs informed the Commissioners of the LEPC training that is taking place on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 from 1 PM to 4 PM and there will be forty participants. It will be a hazmat related incident and it will be held at the Peabody Public Library. This is a requirement for the grant the County receives that is mandatory to be completed by the end of the year. Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented a request to the Commissioners for a transfer from CEDIT to County General. The recommendation came from Paige Sansone at Umbaugh. The transfer would need to be for \$350,000.00 and needs to be presented as a project for the CEDIT fund. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the transfer not to exceed \$350,000, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Amber adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM.

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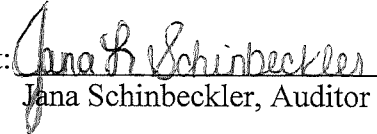


Don Amber, Chairman



George Schrumpf, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake

Attest: 

Jana Schinbeckler, Auditor

