

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 19, 2016

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, January 19, 2016 at 1:00 pm in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman George Schrumpf, Vice Chairman Don Amber, and Tom Rethlake. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Attorney Dan Sigler, County Coordinator Pamela Smith, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Bill Overdeer, Tom Western, Kim Wheeler, Glen LaRue, Nick Barblenecht from RQAW, Sharon Geiger and Ann Fahl from Columbia City Task Force, Attorney Mallers, Treasurer Laurell Hodges, Ron Glassley in Security, Sheriff Marcus Gatton, Scott Jones and Jody Hollenbaugh from the Sheriff's department, and Highway Director Michael Barton.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Sigler discussed the new bylaws the changes/amendments for the Parkview Memorial. Attorney Mallers later explained, in further detail, the changes to the Commissioners. As of today, there are twelve board members and Attorney Mallers stated that they would like to add two more members to the board to have fourteen. Six of the fourteen members are still Whitley County Residents. Attorney Sigler stated that he does not have any concerns with the changes and suggests that the Commissioners accept the changes. After discussion, Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to accept the changes in the bylaws, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING: At this time, Chairman Schrumpf suspended the regular meeting to conduct the Annual Finance meeting with County Treasurer Laurell Hodges. After finishing the Finance meeting, the regular Commissioner meeting was reconvened.

IN THE MATTER OF LIEBERMAN TECHNOLOGIES: Jody Hollenbaugh from the Sheriff's department presented the contract for Lieberman Technologies to the Commissioners. This contract is for the tax warrant money that is collected through the Sheriff's department. It is the same company that the County used last year. Commissioner Amber made a favorable pass to Council, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE GOVERNMENT CENTER ALLEY: Sharon Geiger from the Revitalization Task Force Group for Columbia City presented a request to the Commissioners. There are four members of the group working to revitalize downtown Columbia City. There are possible new companies coming into town. Along with revitalizing downtown, they would like to put flower pots in the Government Center's alley and possibly hold events in the alley. The Commissioners discussed the request and they would like to check with insurance before they make any decisions due to liability concerns. An aspect that may help with the liability concerns is the County is looking into new surveillance and there would be a camera put in the alley. The Commissioners requested that if the Task Group would like to use the alley, they could fill out a request to use County facilities each time.

IN THE MATTER OF DIGITAL VIDEO SOLUTIONS: Ron Glassley presented quotes for new security systems from Williams Electronics and Digital Video Solutions and Security for the Courthouse and the Government Center. The DVRs in both buildings have gone bad. They are seven years old and need to be replaced. Digital Video Solutions gave a quote of \$24,751 and Williams Electronics gave a quote of \$14,684.30. The quotes are almost exactly the same, Ron stated he does not understand the price difference. Both quotes added cameras in the stairways and alleys and the cameras allow quality facial recognition and the warranties are the same. There would also be cameras placed in the courtroom and the bailiff offices. The Commissioners would like to see the video stored for around 6 to 9 months. In regard to the DVR, if the Commissioners would like a bigger DVR, it is another \$2,000 for Williams Electronics. After

further discussion, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the Williams Electronics bid and give a favorable pass to Council, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Highway Director Michael Barton had some PERF discussion with the Commissioners. He also reported that they have bought another 500 tons of grit which was a total charge of \$2,400. The highway department would like to purchase two tandem axle dump trucks. They would be exactly the same and they would also like to purchase a high ranger. They are eliminating an old piece of equipment when they purchase these trucks.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR: County Coordinator Pamela Smith presented a request to use County facilities to the Commissioners. The request was for a wedding ceremony on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 4:30 PM to use the Courthouse Gazebo. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Pamela reported that the personnel committee met and approved to refactor a position in the Engineer's department. The individual will be increasing from \$33,795 per year to \$40,059 per year. Pam will be taking the request to Council for final approval.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the January 4, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions were reviewed by the Commissioners. A motion to approve the claims was made by Commissioner Amber, seconded by Commissioner Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: In regard to comp time, the Sheriff's department either needs a sixty day extension for their comp time or they need to pay the comp time out to the employees. The sixty day extension would be sixty days from January 1, 2016. Commissioner Amber commented that the department heads have done a great job to lower the hours of comp time. After discussion, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the sixty day extension, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 2/1 vote with Rethlake voting against. E911 Director Scott Jones discussed Preferred IT with the Commissioners. There is a software/hardware maintenance agreement Proposal 4479 for the Sheriff's department for \$2,088 per month. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the proposal and give a favorable pass to Council, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Scott presented Proposal 4487 which is a backup system for current servers because the current backup has failed three times. He would also like to have off-site backup in case the basement of the Jail flooded. This puts one piece of hardware in the Sheriff's department and backs up to the cloud. The other option, Proposal 4494 is two pieces of hardware with annual maintenance of \$7,706 and keeping everything in-house. The actual pieces of equipment are \$13,500 each. In regard to Proposal 4487, Commissioner Schrumpf stated that we may need to look into alternatives. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to table Proposals 4487 and 4494 due to not enough information, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Proposal 4480 is replacing the old box server, which was a CAD server, but is now a virtual server. The old box server is eight years old and if it quit, it has nothing to back it up. They are already having issues with the memory. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve and make a favorable pass to Council for Proposal 4480, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to Board Assignments for each Commissioner, Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to keep the board appointments the same. The motion was seconded by Amber, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Rethlake stated he would like Highway Director Michael Barton to check on the agreements that we have for the fuel facility. He also stated that everything is up-to-date and current for the landfill. There will just be more seeding but that will be completed at a later date. Auditor Schinbeckler presented a utility permit to the Commissioners. The permit is for permission to bury the necessary cable, pedestals, and attachments under West Business 30. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the utility permit, seconded by Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Auditor Schinbeckler also brought up the agreement the County has with Solid Waste. The contract has not been redone since 2013 and as of today, the County charges \$12,000 for administrative fees even though the solid waste

fee went from \$41 to \$53. Commissioner Amber suggested that it may be best to have the amount based on the number of households in the County. The Commissioners came to a consensus that the contract needs amended and they will take it to the Solid Waste Board. Commissioner Amber discussed the EMS management with the Commissioners. He would like to bid out the EMS and proposed a process for the bidding. Commissioner Amber stated that he reviewed several EMS bid packages and used one from Santa Rosa County, Florida. It had many similarities to Whitley County and it clearly states what is expected from the County and the Bidder. Commissioner Amber also presented a schedule of events for the bids and by January 1, 2017, the contract agreement would start. Commissioner Rethlake and Commissioner Schrumpf had several questions for Commissioner Amber in regard to the EMS bid package. Commissioner Schrumpf read a statement that stated, "I am not going to recuse myself in this matter. The fact is that as a board member for many non-profits, I represent Whitley County Government as an advocate on their behalf. The Parkview Whitley Board has no voting authority on contract matters of any types and all contracts are processed and the final decision made at an executive board level with legal assistance. Our board mission as a nonprofit is to provide community support through the Parkview Whitley foundation and participate in board quality meetings whose job is to strive for excellence by dissecting hospital quality and employee issues discovering the root causes of the problem and presenting solutions to prevent further occurrences. That's it for our board". Commissioner Amber stated that he is only proposing today that the Commissioners take the EMS system out to bid. The Commissioners would possibly like to finish this discussion in an executive session. In regard to the CEDIT Plan, Commissioner Amber stated that we need to review and possibly modify the 2016 CEDIT Plan. Commissioner Schrumpf informed the Commissioners that Billy Reffitt is no longer interested in the parking lot for his apartment buildings. In regard to the County's insurance and Unified Group, the County's trust is up to \$206,000. If the balance continues to grow, the Commissioners could potentially use the funds to make a loan payment from medical insurance. EMA Director Amy Biggs requested an appointment to be part of the district planning Council. The appointment has to be made by February 18, 2016 with an official letter. Amy also discussed a replacement from Larwill for the EMA Board. At this time, there has not been anyone appointment but they have to be from Richland Township.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Amber adjourned the meeting at 3:40 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

George Schrumpf, Chairman

Don Amber, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake

Attest: _____
Jana Schinbeckler, County Auditor