

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 7, 2016

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 7, 2016 at 1:00 pm in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Vice Chairman Don Amber, and Tom Rethlake. Chairman George Schrumpf was absent. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pamela Smith, Tom Western from the County Council, County Clerk Debbie Beers, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Rob Bell and Tenil Hawn, Katie Dewitt from the EDC, Nick Rupert from the Post and Mail, Ronald Glassley from the Sheriff's department, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Scott Wagner from the Health department, Craig Wagner from the Planning and Building department, GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold, Jordan Selking from Selking International, and Denny McIntyre from WA Jones, and Highway Director Michael Barton.

Vice Chairman Amber opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Dan Sigler discussed the Whitehead case and stated that he is trying to resolve the case. The Sheriff and the Clerk are being sued in the case but not Whitley County. Attorney Sigler is hopeful that there can be a settlement for this lawsuit. The person who is suing the Sheriff and the Clerk is suing due to being over detained at the County Jail due to the judicial system.

IN THE MATTER OF THE POLLING LOCATIONS: Clerk Debbie Beers presented the notice of voting locations to the Commissioners. The Primary Election will be held continuously between the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM in Whitley County on Tuesday, May 3, 2016. The Commissioners reviewed the polling locations. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the polling locations, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW PERMITTING SOFTWARE: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented a proposal to the Commissioners to purchase new permitting software for the Planning department and the Health department. The software that the Planning department currently has that they use for producing and tracking building permits and hearing petitions is a Microsoft Access database and is fairly limited in efficiency and expandability. The permitting software that is still used, is vulnerable to loss due to the fact that the developer went out of business years ago. The County has not paid for any new permitting software since the purchase of the original software in 1995. There are two options available that Nathan presented to the Commissioners. The first option is Schneider Engineering for their permitting software and the second option is CityForce for the software suite which includes Impact, Inspect, and Connect. Both are cloud based systems, so the County's internal network would not have to be upgraded. The cost for Schneider Engineering is \$3,000 for the setup and \$6,750 for the annual hosting, maintenance, and data conversion. CityForce's cost is \$6,000 for setup which includes data conversion and \$575 per month hosting and maintenance until January of 2017, then \$669 per month after that. The Health department expects grant funds to help pay for the initial setup. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion for a favorable pass to Council, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE FRONTIER PERMIT: Auditor Schinbeckler presented a utility permit from Frontier Communications. They are requesting permission from the Commissioners to bury the necessary cable, pedestals, and attachments adjacent or under Blue Lake Road and Anderson Road. County Engineer Brandon Forrester reviewed the permit and stated that it needed to approve subject to the Drainage Board's consent. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the utility permit subject to the Drainage Board's approval, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Highway Director Michael Barton gave a small report on the Highway Department. He also gave the annual report to the Commissioners and stated that the Auditor gave him the truck bids for the bid opening at 2:00 PM.

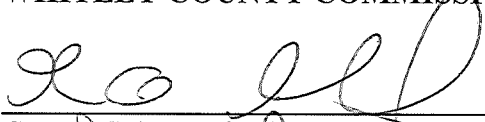
IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR: County Coordinator Pamela Smith presented a request to use County facilities to the Commissioners. The request was for the Whitley County National Day of Prayer for the Community Evening Program. The event would take place on Thursday, May 5, 2016 for the use of the Courthouse Square. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the February 15, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Amber had one correction under "In the Matter of the EMS Contract Discussion" The minutes read, "This would eliminate the transfers from Columbia City to Fort Wayne, for example a transfer from the hospital to a nursing home". Amber stated it should read, "This would eliminate the transfers from Columbia City to Fort Wayne. For example, a transfer from the hospital to a nursing home". Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote. The claim distributions were reviewed by the Commissioners. A motion to approve the claims was made by Commissioner Rethlake, seconded by Commissioner Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote.

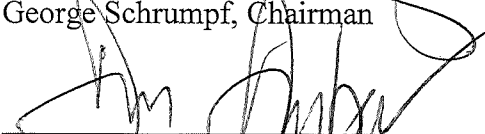
IN OTHER BUSINESS: Auditor Schinbeckler reported that the State of Indiana changed their mileage reimbursement rates. Whitley County follows the reimbursement rate of the State. The change is from \$0.40 per mile to \$0.36 per mile. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the mileage reimbursement rate for \$0.36 per mile, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 2/0 vote. EMA Director Amy Biggs presented a request for additional funds to the Commissioners. In 2015, Amy had a line item in her budget for \$3,000 for vehicle repairs. In 2016, she was not the EMA Director when the budget was completed and the \$3,000 was not included in the budget. She is requesting that the line item be reinstated because she had two repairs that are necessary. There is an issue with the hub assembly and there is also a problem with the transmission. Amy previously had to get work completed on the vehicle so there was heat in the vehicle for the winter which cost \$408.10. The hub assembly is going to cost \$1,041.03 which is a quote from Whitley Tire and Auto Care. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion for a favorable pass to Council to reinstate the \$3,000, seconded by Amber, and carried with a 2/0 vote. Ron Glassley presented a request to the Commissioners for the camera in the Courthouse and the Government Center. He would like to replace all the DVRs and all existing cameras and would like to get a grant but is currently waiting on the grants to open. The Commissioners stated that any amount covered under a grant would be favorable. Commissioner Schrumpf had recommended to Ron to do the project in phases. The first phase would be to purchase the necessary equipment now, such as the DVRs and cameras which would cost \$10,607.44. The second phase is the remaining work that would need to be completed totaling \$17,781.62. Commissioner Rethlake made a favorable pass to Council to proceed with the project in phases, seconded by Amber, and passed with a 2/0 vote. Commissioner Rethlake questioned Attorney Sigler about the property south of town. Attorney Sigler stated that he is trying to get ahold of Marcia McNaghy and figure out what the property owner would like to do and if he is going to clean up the contamination. Rethlake stated that he would like to type up a letter or agreement to give to the property owner and Commissioner Schrumpf has spoken to Mayor Daniel about the property because it is within City limits. Commissioner Amber stated that the Commissioners had an executive session at 8:00 AM and they had interviews for a position coming open within the County.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Vice Chairman Amber adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.

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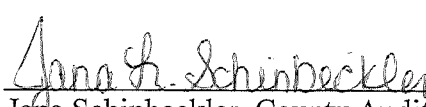
George Schrumpf, Chairman



Don Amber, Vice Chairman



Tom Rethlake

Attest: 

Jana Schinbeckler, County Auditor

