

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 4, 2016

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 4, 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 and Commissioner Tom Rethlake. Absent was Vice Chairman Don Amber. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pamela Smith, Zach Zumbrun, Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant, Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department, Nick Rupert from the Post and Mail, Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Joan Null, Stanley Crum, and Highway Director Michael Barton.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Sigler presented an ordinance that he has approved from the Auditor to establish Sheriff's Sale or Real Property Fees and Fund. This is administrative fees for Sheriff Sale properties and can be used for purchasing computer software, hardware and/or wireless data services supporting mobile information requirements for the Whitley County Sheriff's Department operations. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve Ordinance 2016-01, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. In regard to Cedar Bridge, Attorney Sigler will be sending a letter demanding the payment of \$10,000. He stated that it would make a difference if they have already declared bankruptcy, the County would most likely not receive the money back. In regard to a new nurse for the County Jail, they are in the interviewing process and will let the Commissioners know when they make a decision. At this time, there is a nurse from Noble County who is filling in until they get someone hired. Commissioner Schrumpf asked about the case with the Recorder's Office and there is a hearing that is taking place in Chicago in regard to the matter. Schrumpf asked if it would be valuable for Attorney Sigler to attend and Sigler stated that it may be more valuable for the Recorder to attend.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Highway Director Michael Barton stated the Highway Department has purchased the bucket truck. There is an instructor coming next week to train five or six guys on how to use the truck and then they will be certified to use the truck. Both are tandem axle dump trucks are ordered and the additional parts for the trucks from WA Jones is ordered. Michael estimates that the trucks will be ready to be used in three months. The Highway Department has been putting stone on gravel roads where they are soft or where there is water standing.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR: County Coordinator Pamela Smith presented a request to use County facilities to the Commissioners. The request is for the Leatherneck Coffee Club of Northern Indiana for their 3rd annual flag retirement ceremony. The ceremony will be on Memorial Day from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM on the west side of the Courthouse Square. They will have a hospitality tent near the gazebo and will need access to the power for mics for the chorus. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the March 21, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. The claims were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Maintenance Manager Mark Sturtevant presented a request to the Commissioners to replace the Annex roof. Mark received three estimates to replace the roof and an estimate to replace parts for the heating in the building. The estimates were from Summit City Roofing for \$73,681.00, C.L. Schust Co., Inc. for \$88,900, and Fort Wayne Roofing and Sheet Metal Corp for \$101,500. Mark is recommending the Commissioners approve the estimate from Summit City due to them having the low bid and they are also using the materials from Morsches

Builders Mart in Columbia City. They would require a \$35,000 down payment and the remaining \$35,681 when the job is complete. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to table this matter until the next meeting, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. Mark received an estimate from Redman Plumbing and Heating, Inc. as well to temporarily remove and re-install two air conditioning condensing units, unit heater replacement, east furnace replacement, and east air conditioner replacement. This estimate costs \$7,200 to complete this work. Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department had a request for the Commissioners to put two new offices on the stipend program for their cell phones. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the \$30 cell phone stipend for the two new officers, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. Auditor Schinbeckler presented a contract with Dossett Consulting that Attorney Sigler has approved to deal with the Title IV-D Child Support program. The previous contract was with Maximus but the Auditor is proposing the County sign the agreement with Dossett Consulting. The agreement would be for one year for the price of \$5,000. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the agreement with Dossett Consulting, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. The County has received three drainage bills for reconstruction drains. The amounts are for \$1,429.62, \$1,445.72, and \$190.03. The Commissioners are able to pay them in installments or pay the bills in full. Auditor Schinbeckler requested the Commissioners make a decision whether they would like to pay the bills in full or installments. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to pay the bills in full, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. In regard to SEA 67, each County in Indiana will be receiving funds from their trust account at the State. Whitley County as a whole will be receiving \$185,061 but the County itself will get to keep \$97,044 and the rest of the distribution will go to the taxing units. The IC Code 6-3.5-7-12 specifies what the funds are allowed to be used for and the Commissioners may make a request to Council for a recommendation on how they would like the money to be deposited when it is received. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to recommend to Council that 75% of the funds be deposited into the Rainy Day Fund and 25% of the funds be deposited into the County General Fund. Commissioner Rethlake seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor. Commissioner Rethlake brought up the discussion for the Highway Director. He stated that he has some concerns with having the County Engineer also be the Highway Director. Rethlake is worried that the County will be losing man hours in each department and the contract is going to state that he will take on additional duties. The salary has not been discussed but the Commissioners are wondering if there will need to be a raise for the Foreman. There will still need to be changes in the job descriptions for both positions. The Commissioners stated that the contract will at least need to be at least a year so Brandon is able to experience each of the seasons. Commissioner Rethlake requested, if possible, that the contract end in December so he has the ability to help make the decision to continue the contract. No decisions were made at this time but Attorney Sigler is preparing the two to three page document for the contract.

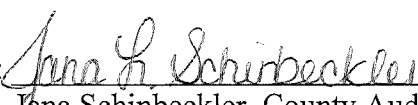
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schrumpf, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


Tom Rethlake

Attest: 
Jana Schinbeckler, County Auditor