

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

April 5, 2016

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman Jim Bayman, Glen LaRue, Bill Overdeer, and Paula Reimers. Absent was Council member Tom Western. Also in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, EMA Director Amy Biggs, County Prosecutor Matt Rentschler, Highway Director Michael Barton, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, County Engineer Brandon Forrester, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Judge Fahl, Zack Zumbrun, Mark Mynhier, and Nick Rupert from the Post and Mail.

Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR POSITION: Emergency Management Director Amy Biggs presented a request to Council for the Deputy Director position. The roles and responsibilities of the Whitley County EMA have gradually transitioned to a broader range of functions associated with the Department of Homeland Security. There are many responsibilities for the department but just a few of them are to provide training, education and exercises for all levels of first responders, securing funding to increase security and equipment for responders, responding to and mitigating natural disasters, responding to and mitigating hazardous materials incidents and ensuring we are compliant with preparedness protocols. Amy is requesting additional funding for the Deputy Director position that has been approved by her Advisory Board and the Commissioners for a pay scale of \$15.00 per hours and a max of 29.5 hours per week. The total budget of the position would be \$23,010 but it is reimbursable by 50% from the State which means the County would pay out of pocket only \$11,505. The total increase from the current budget would be \$8,655. The department is allowed to have volunteers but the volunteers are required to have the same qualifications and there is a limited number of volunteers who are qualified. Amy also provided the Council with the job description for the position. After discussion, Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the request, the motion was denied for lack of a second motion.

IN THE MATTER OF THE GRANT REQUEST: Paul Worden stated that Judge Fahl and Julie Jensen-Kelley have been working to secure funding in Whitley County for a full time Veteran's Treatment Court Coordinator. Paula is seeking the Council's approval to move forward with interviewing and moving forward with the program. They were awarded \$61,919 in total for the Coordinator's salary, fringe, and equipment. The grant period is from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017. A few of the key components of the Veterans Court is to honor the service of Veterans through providing a comprehensive treatment based program, ensure they receive effective treatment with access to resources, and each will receive an individual treatment plan with barriers and goals. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve moving forward with the program, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS:

Prosecutor:

2505.59000.000.0108 Misc. Expense	1148.03941.000.0108 Transfer	\$23,600
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Clerk:

1000.11700.000.0101 Part Time	1000.11320.000.0101 Admin Assistant	\$14,573.50
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In regard the transfer for the Prosecutor's Office, the transfer is for blood test fees that are incurred by the Prosecutor's Office. Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by LaRue and carried with a 6/0 vote. The Clerk's office transfer was due to the part time position becoming full time. Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Bayman and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the March 8, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Reimers and passed with a 5/0 vote with Barrett abstaining.

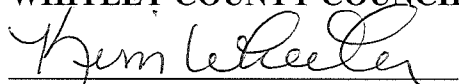
COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Commissioner Rethlake gave a report from the Commissioners meeting:

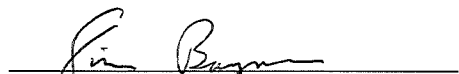
- Commissioner Schrumpf presented the Commissioner's recommendation for the Highway Department Director position. They would like to hire County Engineer Brandon Forrester and combine the Engineer and Highway Department positions. The County Engineer would remain a regular County employee but the Highway position would be a contract. Attorney Sigler is working on an agreement/contract for the Commissioners, Council, and Brandon to review and approve. Brandon stated that he has six years experience with INDOT. Schrumpf stated that this would be cost savings to the County. In the case that they County gave Brandon half of the current Director's salary, they would be saving \$29,633 plus benefits and a vehicle. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that there was not any decision made on the salary because Commissioner Amber was not present at the meeting and the Commissioners tabled the matter.
- In regard to the roofing for the annex, Commissioner Schrumpf stated that the roof needs replaced and Maintenance Manager Mark Sturtevant stated the roof is leaking and not helping heat the building very well. There were three quotes for the roof and the Commissioners decided on Summit City roofing for \$73,681.00 and they are using the materials from Morsches Builders Mart in Columbia City. Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the quote from Summit City roofing and to be paid out of Cumulative Capital Development. Council member Bayman seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.
- A company that previously had made an investment in Whitley County did not meet their requirements for the funds the County gave them to start their business. The County gave Solstice Medical \$50,000 and they did not follow through with their requirements for the funds. Attorney Sigler is sending the company a demand letter to get the funds back.
- The Commissioners approved a rail maintenance agreement for the County Road 600 East Project.
- In regard to the EMS contract, the Commissioners are looking at an extension of the County's current contract. It must be approved by the Commissioners and Parkview and there will be negotiations for the issues that the County has had. The Council questioned why Parkview does not do our dispatch. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that several other Counties are set up to where the hospital does the dispatch for the County. He stated that it is a huge liability concern for the County.
- Commissioner Schrumpf presented the Commissioner's recommendation for SEA 67. This Senate bill is giving money back to the Counties from the State. The Commissioner's recommendation for the funds is for 75% to go to the Rainy Day Fund and 25% of the funding to be deposited into the County General Fund.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Jeff Dossett from Dossett Consulting presented a change that can potentially be made for Title IV-D reimbursements to be reimbursed for fringe benefits at 100% instead of 66%. He stated there needs to be a few modifications for this to happen but it will save the County money. Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the modifications, seconded by Bayman and passed with a 6/0 vote. In regard to a Certificate of Appointment to the Local Alcoholic Beverage Board, Ted Linn is requesting the appointment from the Council. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve Ted Linn for the appointment, seconded by Reimers and passed with a 6/0 vote.

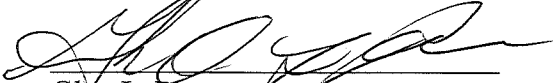
There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 AM.

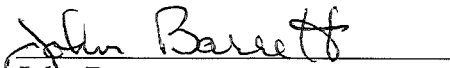
WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL



Kim Wheeler, Chairman

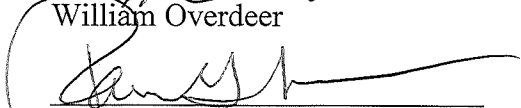

Jim Bayman, Vice Chairman

Thomas Western



Glen LaRue


John Barrett


William Overdeer


Paula G. Reimers

Attest:


Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

