

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 21, 2016

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, November 21, 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 County Attorney Dan Sigler, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pamela Smith, Linda Thomson from the Post and Mail, Council member Tom Western, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Chief Deputy Auditor Vicky Schrader, Sheriff Marc Gatton, Janelle Schmit and Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department, Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office, Joan Null and Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Cedarbridge sent another check to the County for their unused funds that were given to them by the County. The remaining balance of \$3,500 will be paid to the County sometime in December. Attorney Sigler spoke with Matt Winger and there is an agreement that Matt is reviewing and will be signing. The agreement will be brought to the next meeting for the Commissioners to review and sign. Sigler is also working on the agreement with Wheeler and the agreement should be brought before the Commissioners within the next few meetings. Commissioner Amber asked Attorney Sigler about the Terrance McKinney matter. The court has made a decision at this time but Mr. McKinney has thirty days to appeal the decision.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH PURDUE: Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office presented the contract agreement amendment with Purdue to 2017. The amount increased 1% from 2016 which is an amount of \$72,585.00. This agreement is to provide extension educators for 2017 and Attorney Sigler has reviewed the agreement and given his approval. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MERIT DEPUTIES PTO TIME: Sheriff Gatton presented a request for a cell phone stipend for a new Deputy beginning on November 28, 2016. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request effective December 1, 2016, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to PTO time for merit deputies, Sheriff Gatton has made the change in their policy to reflect the new County PTO policy. The previous policy stated the PTO time in weeks, the new policy states the PTO time in hours. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve this change, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. Sheriff Gatton also requested the Commissioners rescind the vacation policy amendment that was effective on July 17, 2006. Commissioner Amber made a motion to rescind the vacation policy amendment that was effective July 17, 2006, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote. Sheriff Gatton discussed the abandoned vehicle law with the Commissioners because there is an abandoned vehicle that they have sent notification to the citizen who owns it and Gatton stated that the citizen will most likely not comply.

IN THE MATTER OF RADIO INVENTORY AND PROGRAMMING: EMA Director Amy Biggs presented the inventory overview of the County's 800 MHz radios. This was a crucial project because the State is going online with an upgrade that is affecting every County in the State of Indiana. They will be conducting the upgrade in Northern Indiana by the end of the year. The total number of radios accounted for was 293 radios amongst 31 different departments. The total number of missing or stolen radios was 19 (17 mission and 2 stolen). In regard to P25 ready radios, this is the requirement that the State is mandating for every radio that is 800 MHz become compliant to. There are 146 radios that are P25 ready and will not incur any additional cost from the vendor to make the programming accessible once it goes online. For the remaining radios, there are 128 that are either not P25 ready or they are unknown and 7 radios that have no

ID issued to them. There are also 15 radios that had to be reassigned to different departments. Amy has been in communication with J & K Communications over the past several months in regard to the upgrade and she has been looking into different ways to minimize the impact this will have on the County as a whole and individually for the townships. The original estimate Amy received from Ted Hurley was \$23,000. Amy has negotiated the price for the 128 radios down to \$160 per radio which is the programming fee only. Amy has spoken to the Fire Chiefs Association and the law enforcement and they understand that this will most likely have an impact on their individual budgets. The Commissioners are requesting that Attorney Sigler review the contract the County has with J & K Communications. Amy also gave the Commissioners an update on the grant for the closed captioned television for the Government Center and the Courthouse. Mark Sturtevant has provided Amy with the information she requested for the grant but she is still waiting on the information from the GIS coordinator Dan Weigold. This grant will end up being a cost savings to the County of over \$7,000.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented a request to the Commissioners to change the Highway Department hours from 8 hour days to 7.5 hour days. Brandon would like this change to be effective on December 18, 2016 and the employees would work from 7 AM to 3PM. The hours are approved by the Commissioners and this was discussed at a Personnel Committee meeting when they discussed the new PTO Policy. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the 7.5 hour days for the Highway Department effective December 18, 2016, seconded by Schruppf and passed with a 2/0 vote with Rethlake abstaining. Brandon stated that he will be presented a reappointment for Mike Schrader for next year to the Commissioners. There is also a petition to vacate on Crooked Lake being brought before the Commissioners at their next meeting. Brandon is hoping to have a meeting regarding winter operations soon with the surrounding schools, departments, etc. In regard to roads, there have been four incidents in the last two weeks where farmer's equipment has torn up the County road. Brandon stated his department has sent out four invoices for these incidents and three out of the four have been paid. The invoice consisted of the time and material it took to fix the road. In regard to annual bids, the opening for the annual bids will be on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 10:30 AM.

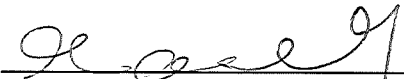
IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the November 7, 2016 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Amber, Commissioner Rethlake seconded the motion and passed with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions were reviewed by the Commissioners. A motion to approve the claims was made by Commissioner Amber, seconded by Commissioner Rethlake, and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioner's reviewed the payroll claims. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote.

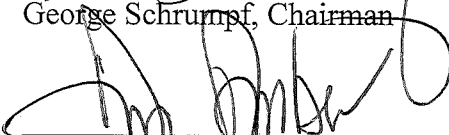
IN OTHER BUSINESS: In regard to medical insurance, the insurance company is willing to delay the December payment until January 2017 and the Highway Department's November bill will be paid out of the trust fund. There will be many different locations on the bill and a few of them will have enough to pay their entire portion. The departments/locations that are able to pay their entire portion of the bill are Community Corrections, Health Department and the Prosecutor Incentive. These departments will not be included in the special arrangements. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion for the changes in the billing and to approve the Highway Department's December payment to come from the trust fund in the amount of \$27,474.44. The motion was seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. Pam Smith stated that there are four individuals who need to be grandfathered in after the first of the year when the new PTO policy takes effect. These four individuals started full time, went part time and then full time again without leaving Whitley County Government's employment. Their PTO time will be calculated by their first original hire date of being full time. Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve these four individuals to be grandfathered in with the new policy, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. Auditor Jana Schinbeckler stated that she inquired on the use of Narcan for the County to check if it would change the County's liability insurance. She spoke with Star

Insurance and they stated it will not affect the County's liability insurance so the use of Narcan in Whitley County will move forward. Commissioner Rethlake stated that the Commissioners need to do the proclamation for the Bicentennial flag at their meeting on December 5, 2016.

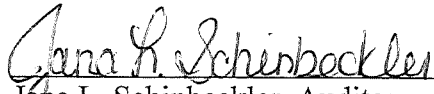
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 2:20 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schrumpf, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


Tom Rethlake

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

