

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 17, 2017

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, January 17, 2017 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 Commissioner Tom Western. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter, Linda Thomson from the Post and Mail, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Julie Jensen-Kelley from Community Corrections, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Jason Meyer from Passages, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Scott Wagner from the Health Department and Treasurer Laurell Hodges.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Sigler presented the new surveyor agreement to the Commissioners for Mark Myhier. The Commissioners and the Drainage Board have to sign the agreement. Attorney Sigler gives his approval for the agreement. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the new surveyor agreement, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the services contract with Parkview, which is the same contract that has been in place. Attorney Sigler gave his approval to renew the contract. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the contract renewal with Parkview Occupation Health, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Attorney Sigler stated that the County Auditor gave him an example ordinance that the Commissioners would need to sign giving the Auditor approval to pay specific claims before the regular accounts payable dates. Sigler reviewed the ordinance and gave it his approval for the Commissioner's next meeting. In regard to the Cintas contract, the Highway Department has terminated the contract and will no longer be doing business with Cintas for their uniforms. Sigler will be sending a letter to Cintas in regard to this matter. The Commissioners discussed the sewer issue in Coesse with Scott Wagner from the Health Department. There are a few options the Commissioners have to correct this issue. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that this project was Redevelopment's and it was paid for with Redevelopment funds. He believes that Redevelopment should be dealing with this issue rather than the Commissioners. Attorney Sigler stated that he would bring it to Redevelopment Commission's Attorney Boxberger's attention. Commissioner Amber made a motion that any further invoices be paid out of Redevelopment and any further issues be turned over to Redevelopment, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PASSAGES, INC. UPDATE: Jason Meyer from Passages, Inc. gave an update to the Commissioners. Passages currently has twelve vehicles, six are mini vans, three are cargo vans, one maintenance van and two cars. They have continued to partner with Whitley County Transit to help with their transportation needs. Passages operates on about a 5.5 million dollar budget. They currently have 130 employees and they serve 200 individuals with either intellectual or developmental disabilities. Passages has many upcoming events that Jason spoke to the Commissioners about. The first event is called "Getting to know Passages" and there are two dates for this held on Thursday, January 19, 2017 and Thursday, March 23, 2017. Thursday, March 9, 2017 is the Passages Annual Art Show and Silent Auction at the Eagle Glen Event Center. Saturday, April 15, 2017 is the Passages Annual Spring 5K at Morsches Park. Jason also provided the 2016 annual report to the Commissioners. The Commissioners thanked Jason for his time and encouraged everyone to visit Passages.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2017-2018 ADULT COMMUNITY BASED SUPERVISION GRANT: Paula Worden, Amy Motter and Julie Jensen-Kelley presented the 2017-2018 Adult Community Based Supervision grant to the Commissioners for approval to submit it to the State. Community Corrections is requesting \$517,980.00 base funds and an additional \$150,000.00. The Project Income budget is \$920,000.00. If the Commissioners approve the grant application, Paula

will ask Commissioner Schrumpf to sign a letter to accompany the grant as well as the Community Corrections Board and Paula will submit a letter as well. Paula has also put in for a request to increase mental health services. Amy Motter is requesting a continuation of the Probation Officer that was hired last year and is requesting funding for a Field Officer. The Field Officer is needed due to the evidence based practices model. Probation needs to have certain home visits done on each person that is a high or moderate risk felony. This would allow for the Probation Officers to stay in the office and conduct the visit there. Amy is also requesting \$20,000.00 to purchase a new vehicle. The County would insure the vehicle and it would belong to the County. The total budget Amy is requesting is \$159,582.00. This amount also covers benefits for the Probation Officer and the Field Officer. The Commissioners have spoken with Representative Judy in regard to additional funding for Community Corrections. Commissioner Amber made a motion to have Commissioner Schrumpf sign the grant and the letter for the grant application for approval, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT APPROVAL: EMA Director Amy Biggs informed the Commissioners that she has conducted the interviews with the EMA Advisory Board for the EMA Deputy Director. There were two outstanding candidates but Amy is seeking the Commissioner's approval for the recommendation of the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board is recommending the Commissioners give approval to hire Edward J. Scott as the EMA Deputy Director. Edward has been a volunteer for the County EMA and is a Columbia Township firefighter as well. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request for appointment of Edward J. Scott as the EMA Deputy Director, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: County Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester reported to the Commissioners that an operator that works for the Highway Department is retiring. The position was posted and will be posted for about five weeks and at this point there has been four applicants. Applicants need to have the hazmat certification to haul certain materials. In regard to purchasing the new chip spreader, Brandon reminded the Commissioners that the bid opening will be February 6, 2017 at 1:00 PM. Next, Brandon presented a utility permit request to the Commissioners. The utility permit request from Century Link is to work in the right of way on Virginia Trail to add a 24th culvert under the proposed driveway. A new cable will be bored in the right of way at six feet deep to eliminate any possible conflict of the proposed culvert. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the Century Link right of way permit, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second right of way permit request was from Baseline Communications on County Road 800 E. Brandon informed Baseline that there were County drains in the right of way and he needed consent from the Drainage Board before moving forward. It appears that the company moved forward without authorization. The Commissioners asked if there is any recourse for moving forward without consent. There are not any consequences for moving forward without permission at this time. The Commissioners stated they believe there should be an ordinance in place for ramifications if a company moves forward without permission from the County. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table the Baseline Communications and US Signal Company utility permit requests, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The next two permits Brandon presented to the Commissioners was Parkview Fiber Optic from Fort Wayne to Warsaw. These permit requests are not complete due to drainage requests. The Drainage Board did not approve these permits at their meeting. Commissioner Amber made a motion to table these permit requests, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

Commissioner Schrumpf suspended the regular meeting at this time and Commissioner Amber opened the annual Board of Finance meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANNUAL BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING: The Annual Board of Finance meeting was held at this time. After the report, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to close the annual Board of Finance meeting and reconvene the Commissioner meeting, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

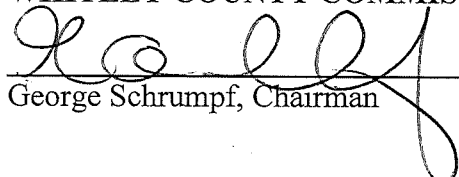
Commissioner Schrumpf reconvened the regular Commissioner meeting at this time.

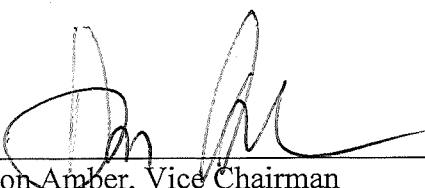
IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the January 3, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Amber had two corrections in the minutes. The first correction is birning is spelled berming. The second correction is that minutes should state Senator Long instead of Representative Long. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the Commissioners reviewing the claims, the Commissioners now sign each individual claim. The State Board of Accounts stated that it was acceptable to not sign each claim and sign a top sheet to show they reviewed all the claims and approve them. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the new way to sign claims, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioner's reviewed the payroll claims for January 17, 2017. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from January 3, 2017 through January 17, 2017 were reviewed by the Commissioners. A motion to approve the claims was made by Commissioner Amber, seconded by Commissioner Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Planning Director Nathan Bilger spoke about the vacancies on the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. There is one person interested in the position for the vacancies which is Elizabeth Deckard. She meets the residence requirements and she meets the political party requirements. This is Nathan's recommendation for the nomination by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to appoint Elizabeth Deckard until the end of the vacancy's term on the Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. Nathan stated that Brad Wolfe is interested in serving as an alternate member on both boards. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve Brad Wolfe as an alternative member, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. Auditor Schinbeckler reported to the Commissioners that the 1782 Budget Notices have been received by the State and all of the budgets were approved for the County. In regard to the 2017 covered bridge certification, Commissioner Amber made a motion to sign the covered bridge certification stating that Whitley County does not have any covered bridges, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber reported that there was a Safety Committee Meeting and the committee decided that there needs to be one AED in each County building on every floor. The AED's are \$1,200.00 each. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that he would check with the Whitley County Community Foundation for funding. In regard to the funding for Region IIIA, Commissioner Western made a non-favorable pass to Council to pay, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote with Amber abstaining. The Commissioners reviewed the new resolution to approve IPEP for the worker's compensation policy. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-01, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the Inspector of Weights and Measures for Whitley County appointment, Commissioner Western made a motion to approve Scott Wagner as the Weights and Measures Inspector, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. Judge Matt Rentschler has requested a cell phone stipend from the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the \$30.00 cell phone stipend, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. In regard to the Jail generator diesel tank, Commissioner Amber made a favorable pass to Council to approve the funding, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

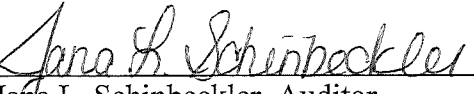
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schrumpf, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman


Thomas Western

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor