**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**June 19, 2017**

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, June 19, 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 Thomas Western. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Attorney Dan Sigler, County Coordinator Pamela Smith, Linda Thomson from the Post & Mail, Karen Jordan from South Whitley, Donna Bower from South Whitley, Leann Snyder from South Whitley, Lee Whaley from South Whitley, Janet Arnold from South Whitley, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Albert Krause, Phil Dierks, Scott Schmitt, Joan Baumert from Columbia City, Eric Baumert from South Whitley, Sara Schaefer from Wane TV, Duane Ginder from Parkview Whitley Hospital, Jessica Miller from Parkview Hospital, Eric Clabaugh from Parkview Hospital, Brandon Rittenhouse from Churubusco, Tammy Slater from South Whitley, Krista Quinones from Lutheran Hospital, Pat Unger from Lutheran Hospital, Scott Sigerfoos from Lutheran Hospital, Carla Horn from the Whitley County Sheriff’s Department, Janelle Schmitt from the Whitley County Sheriff’s Department, Sheriff Marcus Gatton, Jason Spencer from the Whitley County Sheriff’s Department, Sean Martin from the Whitley County Sheriff’s Department, Lana Beregszazi from BCS Management, Tyler Roebuck from IN Whitley County, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, Janet Howard from South Whitley, Susan Hicks, Pam Wisller, Wayne Smith, County Recorder April Whetstone, Gary Hicks from Cleveland Township, Gene Smith from Cleveland Township, Jerry Gottschalk from Cleveland Township, Randall Cokl from the Town of South Whitley, Cory Patrick, Leslie Hoffman from the Town of South Whitley, James Yeager Cleveland Township Trustee, Scott Darley from South Whitley, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester and Teresa Carrano from Tribune News.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:** Attorney Sigler stated that the Commissioners need to do the second reading for the Recorder’s Fee Ordinance and he has given the ordinance his approval.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SECOND READING FOR RECORDER’S FEE ORDINANCE:** Whitley County Recorder April Whetstone presented the Fee Ordinance for the Recorder’s Office for the second reading. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Ordinance 2017-05, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FIRST READING FOR THE TATTOO ORDINANCE:** Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented the Tattoo Ordinance to the Commissioners for the first reading. Commissioner Amber stated that the ordinance needs to go through the Fee Committee first. Attorney Sigler has given the Tattoo Ordinance his approval. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the first reading with the Fee Committee approval, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE EMS DISPATCHING ISSUES:** Randall Cokl spoke to the Commissioners in regard to EMS dispatching issues. The Town of South Whitley held a Town Hall meeting in regard to the EMS in South Whitley and due to the open door law, Randy invited only one Commissioner, Commissioner Schrumpf. Mr. Cokl went through various questions with the Commissioners that the public expressed concern about. He then asked for the Commissioners to allow for the Sheriff to dispatch Lutheran for South Whitley rather than Parkview. Commissioner Amber made a motion to allow the Sheriff to dispatch Lutheran EMS for South Whitley and the motion died for lack of a second. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that if the Parkview EMS is not available for South Whitley, Parkview will dispatch the Lutheran EMS. Schrumpf stated that they would take Mr. Cokl’s concerns under advisement and set up a meeting. The issue in regard to the transfer vehicle was addressed because Parkview added three transfer ambulances to their fleet. Randy states that the issue now is that the ambulances have now been taken out of the area to cover other areas in other Counties due to regionalization. Mr. Cokl stated that the South Whitley residents deserve better Emergency Medical Services than they are receiving.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Highway EngineerBrandon Forrester presented the road plans for Liberty Mills and County Line Road 800 East to the Commissioners. The Commissioners signed the plan because they had previously given their approval. Brandon presented the MVH and LRS revenue projections to the Commissioners and gave a draft proposal to them for the Highway Department budget. The bids for liquid asphalt will be presented to the Commissioners at their first meeting in July. Brandon stated that he received a memorandum from the State Board of Accounts in regard to 50% of the MVH funds must be used for road construction and the Highway Department is expected to track this. He informed the Commissioners that he may need an Office Assistant just to track the MVH funds the County receives. In regard to the Community Crossings grant, Brandon had to submit an Asset Management Plan and the Plan has been approved by LTAP (Local Technical Assistance Program).

**IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The minutes from the June 19, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Western 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 Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from June 5, 2017 through June 19, 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 THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY COORDINATOR:** County Coordinator Pamela Smith stated that she plans to propose the wage increases for 2018 to the Commissioners at their first meeting in July.

**IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS:** There was one Right-of-Way Permit from Century Link presented to the Commissioners. The permit was to begin at County Road 300 East and Lincolnway to place fiber cable that will be plowed and bored in the right-of-way 48” deep under the pavement. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS:** Sheriff Gatton spoke on behalf of the Sheriff’s Department in regard to public safety when it comes to Emergency Medical Services. Sheriff Gatton apologized to the citizens of the County, specifically South Whitley residents, for not being more involved in the process when the Parkview EMS contract was discussed. He stated that he has tried to reach out to the Commissioners and explain that dispatching the Lutheran EMS can be done by the Sheriff’s Department. He is asking that Lutheran be dispatched first for South Whitley and Parkview second. Sheriff Gatton stated that there are sections in the current contract that can have changes made to them. The first one is the 180 days written notice to terminate the contract. His only concern with terminating the contract is how the Commissioners would vote on it. The second is Sheriff Gatton can’t understand how Whitley County Sheriff’s Dispatch is the public safety answering point that dispatches for every other fire department or police department in the County that wants to be included, is free, but is being denied to the South Whitley residents. Sheriff Gatton is asking the Commissioners to allow the Sheriff’s Department to dispatch the Lutheran EMS for South Whitley so that public safety is stronger. He is asking for everyone to work together in the name of public safety for the residents of Whitley County and South Whitley. In regard to the Commissioner reports, Commissioner Amber stated that he attended a JDAI meeting (Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative). The idea of the program is to keep juveniles out of jail if possible. The County applied for a grant for JDAI and the County received a $57,000 grant to fund the program. This $57,000 grant is to fund a position for JDAI and if the County does not receive the grant, the position will not be funded.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman   
Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 2:40 pm.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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George Schrumpf, Chairman

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Don Amber, Vice Chairman

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Thomas Western

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor