

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 19, 2018

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 19, 2018 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 County Attorney Matt Shipman, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Hamilton, Human Resource Director/County Coordinator Angela Campbell, Barbara Hohenstein, EDC President Jon Myers, Todd Geiger from Purdue Extension, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Emily Studebaker, Sonya Emerick, Rachelle Patrick from Camp STEAM Ahead, Nina Rodocker, Planning Director Nathan Bilger and Joan Null.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:** County Attorney Matt Shipman presented the Indiana Fiber Network agreement to the Commissioners and he gives it his approval. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the Indiana Fiber Network agreement, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY UPDATE:** Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented a NIPSCO right-of-way permit to the Commissioners. The first was to provide service to 1079 N Center Street in Columbia City. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve, seconded by Amber and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second request was for the Redevelopment Commission sewer crossing. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve, seconded by Amber and passed with a 3/0 vote. Brandon informed the Commissioners that the Highway Department is going to switch from winter operations to spring operations. They have been working on their 2018 road program but they are getting ready to finalize it. They plan to do 100 miles of chip seal this summer for roads. The Highway Department has received some of their new equipment and other equipment will be delivered soon. They received a trailer, a gravel road maintainer and a disc. They will also be receiving a new mower deck that is behind the tractor rather than beside when they mow ditches. In regard to salt storage, they are looking into building a pole barn. Commissioner Amber asked how big the building needs to be and Brandon stated that it depends on many variables, for example, how high they would be able to stack it. He is guessing it would be anywhere from 55 x 80 to 100. Brandon stated he intends to meet with the Council on this issue in April. He also stated that the County needs to commit to the State's salt bid this week. Brandon informed the Commissioners that he had attended road school a few weeks ago and there was a State Board of Accounts training session for the new highway annual report. House Bill 1290 is going to change some things for the highway department. Last year the bill stated that the Highway Department had to spend 50% of their MVH funding on construction, reconstruction and maintenance of roads. Those were generally defined in the statute to cover most of their expenses with construction, reconstruction and maintenance of roads. They did not want winter operations to be part of the 50% expense and they arguably did also not want salaries and benefits included in the 50%. The bill changed construction, reconstruction and maintenance to construction, reconstruction and preservation. Brandon stated that the highway department needs to do better with their recording of the use of the MVH funds and their ability to report it to the State. There was also discussion on the 800 East project funding with Allen County.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PLAT REQUEST:** Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented the Bachelder Acres plat request to the Commissioners. The plat was approved at the Plan Commission meeting in February. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the plat, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE 4-H PROGRAM UPDATE:** Todd Geiger from the Extension Office gave an update on the Youth 4-H program. The program is available to all kids in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The mini 4-H program is open to all kids in Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. There are 140 youth who live outside Whitley County involved in the 4-H program. There is also a handful of youth that live outside of Indiana that enroll in the program as well. This past year they had 770 kids take part in the Whitley County 4-H program. There were also 160 adult volunteers who helped run the program as either club members, board members, volunteers during the week of the fair or assisted in different clubs. There were 58 different projects that kids could participate in for 2017. There will be 61 in 2018 and the new non-traditional clubs are Whitley County RC cars, Junior Chef Academy, Whitley County Jr. Barnstormers, Robotics Club and Robotics Experience. The new traditional clubs are Beekeeping, Construction Toys, Homemade Ice Cream and Mini 4-H Livestock Mentor Project. In regard to the 4-H STEM Connection Program, this is a program where they are taking 4-H youth into county schools to work with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and older. They do hands-on activities in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This program has 11 members on the team this year and 6 are new to the team. He also informed

the Commissioners on the Camp Steam Ahead which is a unique camp that focuses on science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics with kids.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE CAMP STEAM AHEAD:** Rachelle Patrick had a request for the Commissioners for a donation to Camp Steam Ahead. This camp is during the summer and it encourages student’s creativity in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. In the summer of 2018, they are providing camp STEAM Ahead with a unique focus on supporting children’s needs and curiosities of the world around them by providing experiences and materials from local industries. This camp will be led by local educators and they are non-profit and will be open to 125 children entering into grades 1-6. They are looking for five \$2,500 corporate partners and would like to request the County’s help in supporting Camp STEAM ahead next summer. Partnerships will allow them to keep their enrollment fee reasonable with just being \$70 per camper. Commissioner Amber informed Rachelle that State Board of Accounts does not allow the County to make donations. Due to this, the request for a donation was denied.

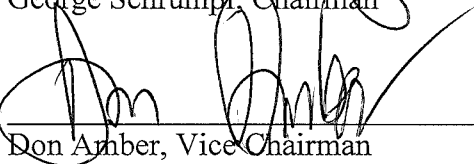
**IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The minutes from the March 5, 2018 regular meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction. The correction is in under, “In the Matter of the Plan Commission Board Member Appointments.” It states that the replacement needs to be Republican but they actually need to be a Democrat. Commissioner Amber seconded the motion with this correction and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners 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 March 5, 2018 through March 19, 2018 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.


**IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS:**


There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
George Schrumpf, Chairman

  
Don Amber, Vice Chairman

  
Thomas Western

Attest:   
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor