

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 3, 2018

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 3, 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 and Vice Chairman Don Amber. Absent was Commissioner Thomas Western. Others in attendance were County Attorney Matt Shipman, County Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator/HR Director Angela Campbell, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, County Assessor Kim Erdly, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Sheriff Gatton, Joan Null, State Representative Christopher Judy and Chelsea Boulrisse from IN Whitley County.

Chairman Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: County Attorney Matt Shipman informed the Commissioners that he has still not heard anything from the Court regarding the lawsuit related to the confined feeding operations. Attorney Shipman also informed the Commissioners that we have an ongoing issue with Doug Dyson. He is claiming sovereignty and he is appealing the Judge's decision so the appeal is going to the Court of Appeals. In regard to the revised proposed Clandestine Ordinance from the Health Department, Attorney Shipman gave it his approval to be passed by the Commissioners.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED CLANDESTINE ORDINANCE & BID FOR JUNK AND TRASH: Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented the revised proposed Clandestine Ordinance to the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-10, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 2/0 vote. In regard to the bid for junk and trash and abandoning a septic tank, Scott sent out request for bids but he did not receive any within the time allowed. He will be resending out the request for bids.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CREDIT FROM THOMSON REUTERS: County Assessor Kim Erdly was present to inform the Commissioners that she will be requesting an additional appropriation to her budget from the Council. There was an unused portion of the contracted amount with Thomson Reuters and she will be receiving a credit for the unused amount. She would like to appropriate the credit and then request to encumber the funds in 2019. Commissioner Amber made a favorable pass to Council, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENTS: Planning Director Nathan Bilger was present to request three appointments from the Commissioners. The first two appointments are to the Whitley County BZA and they are Tim Denihan and Danny Wilkinson. Commissioner Amber made a motion to appoint Tim Denihan and Danny Wilkinson to the Whitley County BZA, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. The third appointment was for the Columbia City Plan Commission and the appointee is Doug Graft. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve Doug Graft, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. The Commissioners also have an appointment to the South Whitley Plan Commission but Nathan did not have anyone to recommend to the Commissioners for an appointment at this time so it is still open. Brandon also presented a recommendation for an appointment to the Commissioners for the Drainage Board. He is recommending that the Commissioners re-appoint Steve Sickafoose to the Drainage Board. Commissioner Amber made a motion to appoint Steve Sickafoose to the Drainage Board, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 2/0 vote. Brandon discussed the 2018 Bridge Inspection report with the Commissioners and informed them on which bridges will need replaced.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: County Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester was present to request the Commissioners to approve the notice to bidders for the 2019 annual bids for the Highway Department. Brandon informed the Commissioners that he has added bids for pavement markings and crack seal material. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the notice to bidders, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: County Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented a right-of-way permit request to the Commissioners for Bolinger Ag Drainage. This is to improve agricultural drainage on 700 south and connect to the main tile on the south side of the road. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 2/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The minutes from the November 19, 2018 regular Commissioner meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. After reviewing the payroll claims, Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. The claim distributions from November 19, 2018 through December 3, 2018 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 2/0 vote. Commissioner Amber stated that even though he approved the accounts payable claims, he has some concern over the amount the County is paying monthly to Century Link.

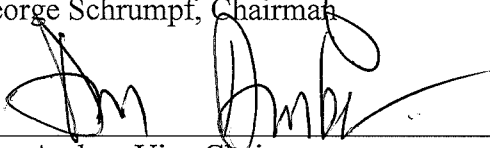
IN THE MATTER OF THE HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR/COUNTY COORDINATOR: County Coordinator/HR Director Angela Campbell informed the Commissioners that she has been approached for the County to be an employer who allows payroll deductions for college choice 529 plans. There are no issues from a payroll standpoint but she wants to receive more information on it before the Commissioners make a decision. There was one request to use County facilities presented to the Commissioners. Ben Romine had a request for the annual Columbia City Township Fire Department Christmas event to use the Courthouse. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. The second and third requests were requests that have been made but Angela does not have the form yet for the Commissioners to review and sign.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: In regard to the Sheriff's contract for 2019, Commissioner Amber made a motion for a favorable pass to Council to approve the contract for the next four years, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 2/0 vote. Commissioner Schrumpf thanked State Representative Christopher Judy for attending their meeting. Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented transfer requests, a transfer resolution and an additional appropriation to the Commissioners for their County General and CEDIT budgets. Commissioner Amber made a motion to approve and make a favorable recommendation to the Council for the transfers and the additional appropriation request, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 2/0 vote. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that the Jail Task Force is still currently working on a solution for the Jail overcrowding. He also gave an update on the Redevelopment Commission stating that the last lot at Rail Connect has been sold and there are only two lots remaining to be sold at Park 30.

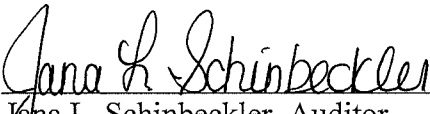
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George Schrumpf, Chairman


Don Amber, Vice Chairman

Thomas Western

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor