## WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

## April 2, 2019

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Vice Chairman Chad Banks, Kim Wheeler, Thomas Warner, Timothy Kumfer, John Barrett and William Overdeer. Chairman Thor Hodges was absent. Others in attendance were Commissioners George Schrumpf and Tom Western, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant, Kyle Peppler from the Maintenance Department, Judge Fahl, Judge Rentschler, Jill Snyder from Whitley DFI, EDC President Jon Myers, Mista Lauber from the Bowen Center, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Director of the South Whitley Community Public Library Vicki Builta, Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office, Randy Culbertson and Randy Holler from the South Whitley Community Public Library.

Vice Chairman Chad Banks called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS: Judge Rentschler and Judge Fahl were present to request additional appropriations for their budgets. The Judges explained that the State is making it mandatory for all Courts and Clerk's Offices to change to the Odyssey Court Management system. With this change, the State is providing new computers for all of the employees in those offices but they are not providing the software update that is needed. Therefore, they are requesting for the additional appropriation of funds for each Court for this software because they are each required to have a license.

## Circuit Court:

1000.347100.000.0136

Technology

\$3,675.00

Superior Court:

1000.34700.000.0137

Technology

\$3,675.00

Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation requests for both Judges, seconded by Kumfer and passed with a 6/0 vote. The Council also discussed the video teleconferencing software that they need to have hearings for prisoners. This allows them to have the hearings without transporting them to and from the Courthouse from the Jail. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that there are funds available in CEDIT to cover the video teleconferencing software needed for the Courts. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the project for CEDIT funds, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 6/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE WHITLEY COUNTY DFI GRANT REQUESTS:** Jill Snyder presented the Whitley County Drug Free Indiana 2018 request for grant funding to the Council. The total amount requested is \$34,933.40 which is split up into four categories. The four categories are prevention/education, treatment/intervention, criminal justice services and administrative costs. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the DFI grant funds, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE FACILITY PROJECT REPORT: Mark Sturtevant from the Maintenance Department was present to review the facility projects for 2019 with the Council. The first request Mark had was for the elevators in the Government Center and Jail. Due to the State having a new inspector, the County has received elevator violations that need to be fixed immediately. In order to fix the Government Center violations, the total is \$2,024.00 which is to replace the control panels in the elevators. In order to fix the Jail violations it is \$15,818.00 which includes a traveling cable for \$13,115.00 and rust remediation for \$2,703.00 giving a total of \$17,842.00. Council stated that the funds for the elevator repairs need to come out of Mark's County General budget and if he needs additional appropriations, they requested that he come back later in the year.

In regard to the 2019 facility projects, Mark's top priority projects are:

## Jail:

44 Bradley Lavatory Valves: \$76,780 HVAC Software Upgrade: \$25,000

Courthouse:

Remainder of 4 Heat Pumps: \$35,000

East Steps: \$7,100 North Sidewalk: \$45,750 South Sidewalk: \$29,400 South Steps: \$2,980 **Government Center:** 

Boiler Restoration: \$20,000

Work Release:

Masonry Restoration (Water Damage): \$13,094

Mark discussed each individual project with the Council and they reviewed all of the projects. After discussion, Council member Kumfer made a motion for Mark to complete the HVAC software upgrade, the sidewalk and step updates, boiler

restoration at the Government Center and the masonry restoration at Work Release to be paid out of Cumulative Capital Development. Council member Barrett seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE EDC ANNUAL REPORT:** EDC President Jon Myers presented the 2018 EDC Annual Report to the Council. Jon highlighted various aspects of the County for 2018 such as 46 new jobs with a \$29 hourly wage, \$2,000,000 in increased tax revenues and the unemployment rate is still at 2.9%. The total population for Whitley County in 2018 was 33,817 and the median household income was \$60,126. Assessed values also continue to increase each year with the new companies coming into Whitley County. Jon also reported that the EDC has been working with companies to give them incentives such as training grants instead of tax abatements.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EXTENSION UPDATE: Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office discussed the various 4-H programs that the Extension Office has. In August 2018, 150 participants attended the Local Farmers Benefit from NEPAC Field Day which gave them information on soybean crop updates, corn updates, weed control, agronomic fertility and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The Junior Leaders have also been very active in the community through service learning projects such as shopping for Toys for Tots and ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. John Woodmansee also organized the Timer Marketing Program and it offered a forest management and timber marketing program attended by 19 participants. The Whitley County Extension Homemakers have 130 adults in 10 clubs throughout Whitley County. Each year they sponsor the Adult Open Class exhibit during the 4-H Fair, the Holiday Bazaar and Quilt show and two garage sales. The 4-H STEM Connection program incorporates a "team" of high school students who help develop, plan, and practice hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities to take out into the community, schools and other youth serving organizations to interact with younger youth. So far in 2019, there are 789 youth enrolled in the Whitley County 4-H program along with 130 adult volunteers. The Feeder Calf was the largest 4-H project with 158 youth participating in it. Cindy also went over her programs Block Party, Without a Will and Pond and Wildlife Management.

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS: Randy Holler, Randy Culbertson and Vicki Builta from the South Whitley Community Public Library were present to request the approval from the Council to borrow funds for an expansion. They plan to pay back the borrowed funds in six years with the income tax distribution they receive monthly. The Library Board also approved the request for borrowing funds and approved the expansion project. Council member Warner made a motion to approve the request per Resolution 2019-02, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 6/0 vote.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT AND SALARY ORDIANACE AMENDMENT REQUEST:** Commissioner Schrumpf gave a report from the Commissioners meeting:

- Commissioner Schrumpf presented a new position request to the Council. He reviewed the job description with them and stated that position would be able to assist with Human Resource duties, provide information to attorneys, assist with County projects with the Commissioners, etc. The position was changed to the Commissioner's Assistant but the scope of responsibilities is the same and the position still factored as a PAT 310. He stated that this position could also eliminate some third party work that we currently have to have. There is currently \$16,306 left in the line item for the Commissioner's budget. The Commissioners would need an additional appropriation for \$28,336.00 to cover the salary for 2019. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request for the Commissioner's Assistant, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 4/2 vote with Banks and Wheeler voting against. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the salary ordinance amendment for the position, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 4/2 vote with Banks and Wheeler voting against.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The Council reviewed the March 5, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Councilman Kumfer made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Barret and passing with a 6/0 vote.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Councilman Kumfer stated that he wanted to recognize today as National Autism Awareness Day.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Vice Chairman Banks adjourned the meeting at 10:10 AM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

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Timothy Kumfer

John Barrett

William Overdeer

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Jana S. Schinbeckler, Auditor

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