

## WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

August 6, 2019

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Thor Hodges, Vice Chairman Chad Banks, Kim Wheeler, Thomas Warner, John Barrett and William Overdeer. Absent was Councilman Timothy Kumfer. Others in attendance were Commissioner George Schrumpf, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Kennedy St. George from the EDC, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant, Brian More and Liane Rambo from Micropulse, Jorell Tucker from Solid Waste, Paula Worden from Community Corrections, Theresa Green, County Assessor Kim Erdly, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Tim Summers from the Maintenance Department, Sheriff Gatton and Chief Deputy Sheriff Jason Spencer.

Chairman Thor Hodges called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ABATEMENT CORRECTION:** Kennedy St. George from the EDC was present to explain the abatement correction 2019-10 for Micropulse, Inc. that was originally adopted November 7, 2017 being a 10 year tax abatement. The County Assessor advised Micropulse to add PNC Equipment Finance LLC to the Resolution so that the abatement can be used and would be in compliance. Councilman Banks made a motion to approved the amendment, with a second by Barrett passing with a 6/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SHERIFF:** Sheriff Gatton asked for the funds that we will be receiving from the Travelers insurance check that was for the loss of Deputy Archbolds car and equipment to go back to the Commissary and Garage funds. The total amount of the check we are getting at this time is \$61,937.93. Sheriff Gatton is wanting \$35,576.50 to go back to the Commissary as that is how the car was originally purchased and the replacement vehicle for him was already purchased out of Commissary as well. He is also requesting the rest of the funds \$26,361.43 go back to the garage fund to cover the expenses of the new equipment that has been and is still being purchased for Deputy Archbolds replacement equipment. Motion was made by Councilman Barrett to approve the request with a second by Councilman Warner, passing with a 6/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SOLID WASTE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION:** Jorell Tucker was present to request additional appropriations for Solid Waste curbside recycling account. They are needing the additional appropriations to get through this year for the budget. Councilman Hodges asked that Jorell please explain the situation for the audience and anyone that watches to know and understand why he is needing this. The market has crashed and we are being charged more and that is why he is needing additional funds. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve the request with a second by Councilman Banks, passing with a 6/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY TAX LEVY:** Scott Wagner stated that he has some concerns that came with looking at the budget and met with Jana in regards to tax levy questions. He then stated in 2018 \$204,000 was taken from the Health Department budget and in review looks like in 2020 the Health Department would be in the red. He would like approval to meet with the County Auditor to see what can be done to raise the tax levy for the Health Department. He stated he would come back in 30-60 days with that information. The levy hasn't changed since Scott has been here but he is stating that he is looking to increase it to help with the Health Department. He wants to get back to the Health Department to be completely covered by the levy so that County General doesn't have to cover it. Scott is asking for an additional appropriation to switch money from 2 funds to another to pay Carlee LaRue totaling \$7,000. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve with a second by Councilman Wheeler passing with a 6/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE EQUIPMENT PLAN:** Brandon Forrester County Engineer presented his five year equipment purchase plan. He asked to get a commitment to encumber funds from 2019 to 2020 equipment budget so that he can purchase two single axel dump trucks. He had it in his budget to purchase one in 2019 as well as 2020 but he is asking to use the funds in 2020 so that he may get both trucks ordered in 2020. That way they can both be the same models and he stated that it would then be easier for the maintenance of the trucks if they were both the same year and model. Even if he ordered one now in 2019 it wouldn't be built and ready until 2020. He hasn't had to make the purchase yet in 2019 and he has purchased a new sign truck as well as a one ton dump truck this year so far and they are in service. Councilman Hodges stated it is the general consensus to move forward with what he is asking. County Engineer then had a discussion about his salary.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT EXTENSION:** Paula Worden from Community Corrections came to address her Grant Extension because of the change in the calendar year. She also stated that she should know hopefully soon what she will be getting for 2020, and once she does she will be back to present that information.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS:** Mark is seeking to make an adjustment for the 2020 utilities budget because Community Corrections utilities can no longer be funded by the Community Corrections grant. Jana stated that the numbers have already been updated per his numbers that he sent her.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT:** Commissioner Schrumpf gave a report from the Commissioners meeting.

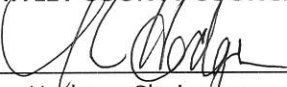
- Branch Court is almost completed and Extension will be moving in right after Labor Day. The Extension Office will be closed the first week in September for the move into the new office. Commissioner Schrumpf also explained that it came in over budget because they decided to do some things while they had the funds and fix them now. One of which being the drainage in the parking lot and the telephone system needed to be updated.
- Schrumpf stated that we are in the process of getting a new print management system that will save us money. It will also be a municipal lease not a five year commitment. Commissioners' Assistant Jennifer has worked with department heads to get the correct numbers of printers and copiers that the County actually needs verses what we currently have.
- Councilman Hodges then brought up making Council and Commissioners paperless. George stated that they will look into and as well as maybe getting them IPADs to use.
- Schrumpf informed the Council that we are hiring a consultant for the needs assessment at the jail. This is something that is required by the State and it will be a benefit to the County so we can do things efficiently.
- Lastly Commissioner Schrumpf made his recommendation regarding wage increases. His recommendation is to bring everyone to the internal base salary and to give a cost of living increase of some percentage.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The Council reviewed the July 2, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Councilman Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 6/0 vote.


**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Councilman Hodges would like to know the number if we brought all employees up to the external midpoint that was presented from WIS plus a 3% cost of living increase to all employees.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Hodges adjourned the meeting at 9:30 AM.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

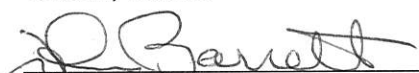
  
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Thor Hodges, Chairman


  
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Chad Banks, Vice Chairman

  
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Kim Wheeler


  
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Thomas Warner

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Timothy Kumfer

  
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John Barrett

  
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William Overdeer

Attest:

  
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Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor