

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

July 7, 2020

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Chad Banks, Vice Chair Kim Wheeler, Thomas Warner, Timothy Kumfer, Thor Hodges, William Overdeer and John Barrett. Others in attendance were Commissioners Schruppf, Paula Worden from Community Corrections, James Argerbright, Planning Director Nathan Bilger and Dale Buuck from Whitley County EDC.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Prosecutor DJ Sigler presented two additional appropriation requests to Council. The first additional appropriation request was for Pre Trial Diversion to pay for blood test fees. Normally the blood test fees are paid by the Prosecutor and reimbursed by the individual. The second request was for the Prosecutor Incentive fund. He would like to pay a performance bonus to five of his employees who are IV-D case workers.

Pre Trial Diversion:

2502.39503.000.0505	Blood Test Fees	\$20,000
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Prosecutor Incentive:

8897.17800.000.0209	Performance Bonus	\$15,000
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Councilman Overdeer made a motion to approve the Pre Trial Diversion additional appropriation request, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote. The Council reviewed the Prosecutor Incentive additional appropriation request. The Council decided not to make a decision until the next meeting because they would like to see the salary ordinance amendments.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONFINEMENT OFFICER: Sheriff Gatton was present to request the hiring of a Confinement Officer. The funds were appropriated for the position but he had to hold off on interviews because of the coronavirus. Councilman Kumfer made a motion to allow the rehire, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PRESENTATION OF PRETRIAL GRANT: Paula Worden and Paula Reimers were present to request the appropriations for their Pre Trial Services grant. They also presented salary ordinance amendments for the positions that are paid for by the grant. The first salary ordinance amendment was for the Pretrial Coordinator for \$48,264.00 and the second salary ordinance amendment was for the Pretrial Assistant for \$34,702.00.

Pretrial Services:

9104.11217.000.9104	Pretrial Coordinator	\$48,264
9104.11317.000.9104	Pretrial Assistant	\$34,702
9104.11210.000.9104	Pretrial Case Manager	\$26,073
9104.17100.000.9104	FICA & Medicare	\$9,097
9104.17200.000.9104	Retirement PERF	\$28,141
9104.30012.000.9104	Other Services	\$28,080

Councilman Kumfer made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request, seconded by Hodges and passed with a 7/0 vote. Council Kumfer then made a motion to approve the salary ordinance amendments, seconded by Overdeer and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE DECLARATION OF FISCAL BODY: Vicki Builta from the South Whitley Public Library was present to discuss a new bill that was passed. In the event that the library needs a binding review, Vicki is asking that the Council declare that they are the fiscal body that would perform the binding review. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the declaration of fiscal body and for the Chair to sign, seconded by Kumfer and passed with a 7/0 vote. The Council stated that they still need to approve the declaration of fiscal body for Peabody Public Library as well. Councilman Kumfer made a motion to approve and for the Chairman to sign the Peabody Public Library's declaration of fiscal body, seconded by Warner and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE STAR INSURANCE GROUP BENEFITS REVIEW: Leslee Robinson from STAR Insurance was present to give the Council an update on the group insurance benefits. She stated that the plan is currently doing very well and the trust account has a reserve. The deductibles are staying the same for the next plan year and stating that the County should look into a wellness program to protect the reserve in the trust fund and could also lower rates for employees. Leslee stated that the wellness program can be funded by the trust account. Only employees and their spouses that are on the County's insurance would be able to participate.

IN THE MATTER OF THE WELLNESS COMMITTEE AND DFI COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Carlee from the Health department requested that the Council approve funding for the wellness committee. If 10% reduction on their premiums in 2022. The committee will focus on holistic health and there will be mandatory items that will need to be completed. The cost is \$35 per participant and Carlee estimates that there will be around 146 individuals that would be eligible for the program. Councilman Hodges made a motion for the funding to come out of the trust fund with the approval from the Commissioners, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote. Carlee then presented the DFI Comprehensive Plan to the Council for approval. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the comprehensive plan, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE LONGEVITY PAY DATE: Auditor Schinbeckler presented the longevity figures to Council and asked that they approve a longevity pay date of November 17, 2020. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve November 17, 2020 as the longevity pay date, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Amber gave a report from the Commissioner meeting:

- The Commissioners have decided to do a needs assessment for the jail and Community Corrections. The needs assessment will be performed by Performance Services and the cost for the initial Phase 1 of the project is \$49,200.00. Councilman Overdeer made a motion to approve the \$49,200 for Phase 1 out of the new Correctional Facility tax, seconded by Kummer and passed with a 6/1 vote with Hodges voting against.
- Commissioner Amber then presented an SDS Communications quote to the Council to ask for funding. They would like to change all of the phones over to an internet based system and it would save about \$400 per month. The funding would come out of the Commissioners budget. The entire quote is \$22,082.41 which would be to install two IP system, one at the jail and one at the Government Center. This would convert the existing Century Link lines to voice over IP lines through Clearly. Councilman Hodges made a motion to either approve an additional appropriation later in the year in County General Commissioner budget or to allow a transfer to fund the project, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 7/0 vote.
- The next quote Commissioner Amber presented was the quote for J & K Communications. This quote is to update and maintain all of the radio and computer equipment for the dispatch and it is a five year contract. This provides extra protection for the dispatch center. The quote is for \$193,727 and the Commissioners are requesting it be funded out of E911.
- Commissioner Amber also informed the Council that the HR Director/Coordinator Ed Robbins is no longer with the County.

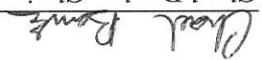
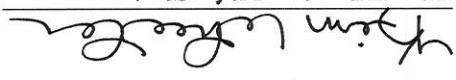
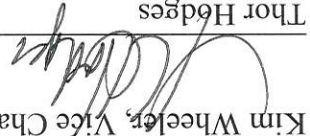
IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The Council reviewed the June 3, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 4-H FAIR UPDATE: 4-H President Jeff Geiger and Lori Heuer gave the Council a 2019 financial overview and a 2020 update on funding. Their overall major expenses for 2019 was \$201,600 and their major income totaled \$231,400. In 2020, due to the coronavirus, they are estimating that their reduced income will be \$88,940. The Council asked that they ask other entities, check on grants and other funding sources to make up for their lost revenue. They asked them to come back a later date with exactly how much funds they will need help with from the County.

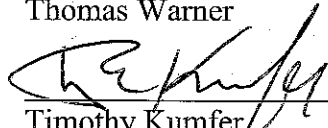
IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: The Council received a letter from a concerned citizen asking them to mandate masks within the County. Council spoke with Scott Wagner and stated that this would be the Commissioner's decision and at this time the Health Department does not recommend mandating masks in Whitley County. Scott stated that he would draft a letter responding to the individual. The Council reviewed the 2020 budget calendar and stated that they all approve of the schedule.

There being no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Banks adjourned the meeting at 10:05 AM.

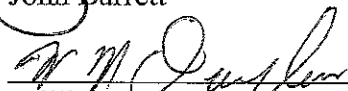
WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL


Chad Banks, Chairman

Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman

Thor Hodges



Thomas Warner


Timothy Kumfer


John Barrett


William Overdeer

Attest:


Jena L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

