

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 8, 2020

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 1:00 PM in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Don Amber, Vice Chairman Thomas Western and Commissioner George Schrumpf. Others in attendance were Attorney Matt Shipman, HR Director/Coordinator Jennifer Shinabery, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Bill Etzler from Engineering Resources, John Enrietto, County Recorder Rosemary Brown, Sonya Emerick, County Assessor Kim Erdly, County Treasurer Laurell Schroder, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, EDC President Dale Buuck and Planning Director Nathan Bilger.

Chairman Amber opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: Attorney Shipman discussed the issue of the tax deferment imposed by an executive order. Attorney Shipman recommends that the Commissioners make a motion to not defer anyone's taxes. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to opt out of tax deferment, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. Attorney Shipman also reviewed the Clearly contract for the Commissioners. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve and allow the Chair to sign the Clearly agreement, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADA TRANSITION PLAN: Bill Etzler from Engineering Resources was present to answer any questions the Commissioners potentially had on the ADA Transition Plan. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the plan, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester gave an update to the Commissioners on the Community Crossings grant. The Highway Department has paved six subdivisions this year and their chip sealing for the year is complete. They completed about 70 miles of chip seal and they are starting on birthing and ditching.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Chairman Amber stated that he has reviewed all payroll and accounts payable claims. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from August 17, 2020 through September 8, 2020 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners also reviewed the August 17, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS: There were six right-of-way permits presented to the Commissioners for approval. The first request was from Frontier Communications to provide service to a residence on 900 east. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. The next request was from Northeastern REMC to install a new underground jacketed distribution conductor to serve a new customer on 300 south. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The third request was from M.C. Wheeler and Sons Inc. to provide water supply to a customer's pole building on the opposite side of Morsches Road. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request with the stipulation that the homeowner must sign a hold harmless agreement, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. The next request was from Century Link for Indiana Materials Processing to provide Ethernet services to be delivered over fiber optic cable on east Rail Connect Road. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote. The fifth request was from Century Link as well for County Road 600 East and Rail Connect Drive. This is to comply with the County Road improvement project at this location. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote. The last request was from Frontier Communications to provide service to a residence on 825 east. Commissioner Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUESTS TO USE COUNTY FACILITIES: A request to use County facilities was presented to the Commissioners. The request was from Jennifer Romano to use the Courthouse Grounds for the 2020 Fall Expo. This would take place on September 18, 2020 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and passed with a 3/0 vote.

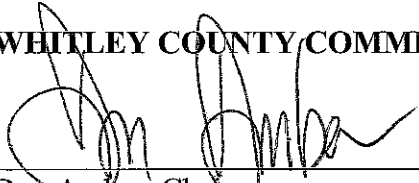
IN THE MATTER OF CARES ACT FUNDING: The Commissioners announced that they are looking into providing internet to the entire County through CARES Act funding through the State. Phase I of the project will be completed this year and will cost approximately \$695,000. The project will be with Mercury Wireless and it has to be completed by December 31st. Phase I of the project is utilizing existing towers for the internet and Phase

It will be adding new towers to cover the entire County. The Commissioners have also approved for Courthouse Security to be upgraded through the CARES Act.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: EDC President Dale Buuck discussed recovering the Coupled Products building with the Commissioners. He has a potential buyer for the building but a lot of cleanup is needed. Dale is asking the Commissioners for \$5,300 for Phase I of the cleanup. Commissioner Western made a motion to allow the \$5,300 to be paid out of CEDIT, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Dale also informed the Commissioners that the County has received a \$250,000 OCRA grant for small businesses within the County. The grant allows small businesses to receive a low interest loan for three years with a maximum amount of \$25,000 each. One criteria of the small business is they must of 50% of the workforce low to moderate income. Planning Director Nathan Bilger was present to request an appointment to the Plan Commission. After review of the nominations, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to appoint Kim Kurtz-Seslar to the Plan Commission, seconded by Western and carried with a 3/0 vote.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Amber adjourned the meeting at 1:40 PM.

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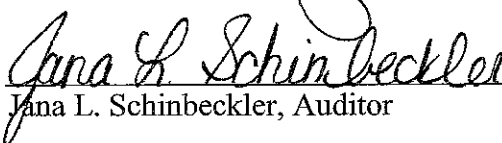
Don Amber, Chairman



Thomas Western, Vice Chairman



George Schrumpf, Commissioner

Attest: 

Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor