

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 5, 2021

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 5, 2021 at 1:00 PM in the Commissioners' Room located on the 1st floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chair George Schrumpf, Vice Chair Theresa Green and Commissioner Chad Banks. Others in attendance were Coordinator/Human Resources Director Jennifer Shinabery, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Sheriff Gatton, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Doug Dukes from Elevatus, Leo Rumschlag from Janseen and Spaans Engineering and Chelsie David from the Post and Mail.

Chair Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: Chair George Schrumpf recognized employees with more than 20 years of service. Scott Schmitt has 21 years of service, Jason Spencer has 22 years of service, Tyson Howenstine has 23 years of service, Cindy Doolittle has 25 years of service, Sharon Pequignot has 27 years of service and Judge Heuer has 30 years of service.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Shipman informed the Commissioners that the purchase of the Armstrong property may change, and the County may need to purchase it all at once instead of spreading the payment over three years.

ANNUAL JAIL REPORT: Sheriff Gatton presented the annual jail report to the Commissioners. He informed them that the numbers are skewed due to COVID and there are 108 inmates currently in the jail.

PLAT APPROVALS AND REZONING REQUEST: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented the Egolf Homestead plat to the Commissioners for approval. The Plan Commission has already approved the plat. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the plat, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote. Nathan Bilger then presented an ordinance amending the zoning classification of a certain property from "AG" Agricultural District to the "RR" Rural Residential District. The Plan Commission gave a favorable recommendation to rezone this property for Keith Robinson. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-04, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote.

WIC REMODEL APPROVAL AND WELL VARIANCE REQUEST: Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented a well variance request to the Commissioners for Matt Rentschler. After review, Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the well variance request, seconded by Green and passed with a 3/0 vote. Scott then informed the Commissioners that he plans to use grant funds to remodel one of the rooms in the WIC office. This will improve the office space and make the rooms more efficient for the WIC Department. Scott then gave the Commissioners a COVID update, and the County currently has about 8 positive tests a day.

JANSEEN AND SPAANS ENGINEERING INTRODUCTION: Leo Rumschlag from Janseen and Spaans Engineering introduced himself to the Commissioners and provided them with information regarding the engineering company he works for. Their firm deals with anything transportation related and works with many Highway Departments.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE AND INDOT AGREEMENTS: The Commissioners reviewed an agreement for the county engineer and county surveyor. The agreement states that the Whitley County Engineer is hereby designated to perform all functions of the county surveyor of Whitley County under the Indiana drainage statute due to the elected county surveyor not being registered as a licensed land surveyor under Indiana Code 25-21.5 or a professional engineer. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Green and carried with a 3/0 vote. Brandon then presented two INDOT agreements to the Commissioners for approval. The first agreement was for replacing a small structure on State Road 9. The work is anticipated to begin as early as May 1, 2021. INDOT is requesting that the Commissioners allow an unofficial detour, which will be from SR 9 south on CR 150 E, to west on Cider Mill Rd, returning to SR 9. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Green and carried with a 3/0 vote. The second agreement was to replace a small structure on State Road 9. The work is anticipated to begin as early as May 1, 2021. INDOT is requesting that the Commissioners allow an unofficial detour, which will be from SR 9 west on E 300 N, to south on N. Airport Rd, returning to SR 9. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote. Brandon informed the Commissioners that INDOT is changing to docusign when the Commissioners need to sign documents. Commissioner Banks made a motion to allow the Chair and Vice Chair to electronically sign on docusign on behalf of the Commissioners, seconded by Green and passed with a 3/0 vote.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS POLICY: Human Resources Director / County Coordinator Jennifer Shinabery presented a memo and information to the Commissioners for the emergency closings policy. She stated that the policy needs to be reviewed and updated. Commissioner Banks made a motion to table the emergency closings policy review until the next meeting, seconded by Green and passed with a 3/0 vote.


APPOINTMENT TO THE CHURUBUSCO PLAN COMMISSION: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented a memo to the Commissioners informing them that there is a vacancy on the Churubusco Plan Commission. Churubusco Clerk-Treasurer Madalyn Sade-Bartl south out nominations. The nomination she received was for Brandon Johnson. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve Brandon Johnson for the Churubusco Plan Commission, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The Commissioners reviewed all payroll and accounts payable claims. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from March 15, 2021 through April 5, 2021 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the revised March 1, 2021 Commissioner minutes. They were revised to explain what the County was awarded for ADA compliance. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the revised minutes, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners also reviewed the March 15, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: The Commissioners reviewed an agreement from the Office of Veterans Affairs. This agreement is to allow them to park one car on the County's parking lot. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the agreement and allow the Chair to sign, seconded by Green and passed with a 3/0 vote.

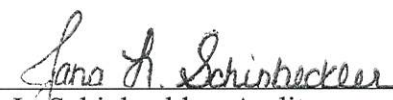
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 1:55 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chair George Schrumpf


Vice Chair Theresa Green


Commissioner Chad Banks

Attest: 
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor