

## WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 2, 2022

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 2, 2022, at 1:00 PM in the Commissioner's Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chair Chad Banks, Commissioner Schrumpf and Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Commissioners' Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, HR Director Jennifer Shinabery, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Assessor Kim Erdly, Sheriff Marcus Gatton, Communications Director Janelle Schmitt, Rob Schuman, Nicki Venable, Timothy Kumfer, Chad Nix and Steve Henschan from the Regional Sewer District, Joan Western, Sonya Emerick and Joan Null

Chair Banks opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** Chair Chad Banks recognized employees with more than 20 years of service. Steve Schuman with 33 years, Judge Huer with 31 years, Jeanette Hearld with 31, Cindy Doolittle with 26, Tyson Howenstine with 24, Jason Spencer with 23, and Scott Schmitt and Mike Rumsyre with 22 years of service.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT:** Attorney Shipman stated that he has reviewed the agenda items and he sees no problems with them. He can address them more when they are brought up later in the meeting.

**REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT FUNDING REQUEST:** Chad Nix from the Regional Sewer District was present with Steve Henschan from JPR to give an update on the current Regional Sewer District project and ask for funding on phase II of the project that will follow the phase I that is underway. Chad let the Commissioners know that phase I is fully funded and they were very happy with how the bids came back. The Regional Sewer District is going to be needing funds to help get phase II completed without any debt from the project. The estimated cost for phase II is 6 million 25 thousand. If they end up getting the same grant amount that they received for phase I they will be underbudget by 1 million 25 thousand. The Regional Sewer District is asking that the Commissioners give up to the 1 million 25 thousand that would possibly be needed for phase II of the project. Commissioners agreed that this is a great project to help fund and will give a favorable pass to Council to earmark the funds for the Regional Sewer District.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE RADIO QUOTES:** Communications Director Janelle Schmitt was present to discuss the need for new radio consoles for dispatch. The cost to replace the consoles would be \$526,000. Janelle did state that she would be willing to use \$200,000 out of 911 funds to help pay for this upgrade of the consoles. The Sheriff's Department is asking that the Commissioners give Council a favorable pass to use the ARPA funds that were issued to Whitley County as well as the 911 funds. Commissioners feel that for the safety of our deputies that it is time to make an upgrade to the radio consoles. There is still a 3-year contract left with our current consoles and Attorney Shipman stated that they should look at the contract to see about being able to get out of that early with the problems and underperforming that the current consoles have done. Commissioner Baysinger stated that she in the beginning was not in favor of getting new consoles as she was hoping to have discussions about a central dispatch, however after speaking with the other Commissioners she no longer feels this way and believes that the new consoles are needed. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to give a favorable pass to Council to move forward with new radio consoles and using ARPA funds to pay for them, with a second by Schrumpf, and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**PTABOA MEMBER APPROVALS:** Assessor Kim Erdly was present to ask Commissioners to keep Greg Fahl, Jeff Walker and Treasa Sideris as PTABOA board members. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve, with a second by Baysinger and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**DRIVING & VEHICLE USE POLICY:** HR Director Jennifer Shinabery had stated that the policy was not yet ready to review at this time. Commissioners will table this until the next meeting.

**ORDINANCE FOR EXEMPTIONS:** Health Director Scott Wagner was present to go over an ordinance that he has been working on with Attorney Shipman as well as Elizabeth Deckard. Legislative made some changes that will affect Counties and the process/policies for well exemptions. Commissioner Banks stated that he had not had a chance to review the ordinance as thoroughly as he would like before he would be able to vote. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to table the ordinance until the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting so that they have time to review, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote. Scott also let Commissioners know that he will be bringing forward an ordinance to establish fees for paternity work that the Health Department does. Scott is also looking into trading the weights and measures vehicle and will be presenting 3 quotes when he has those.

**WIS SALARY ANALYSIS:** HR Director Jennifer Shinabery was present to request that the County again use Wagner Irwin and Scheele to do a wage analysis. This should be completed every 3-4 years and the County is at

year 3 from the last analysis that was completed in 2019. The cost would be between \$8,800-\$10,240. Commissioner Banks stated that he is in agreeance with this and would like to see that Elected Officials be looked at this time as they were not reviewed in the 2019 analysis. Commissioners agree to pay for the analysis from their professional services line item. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to a favorable pass to Council, with a second by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**ARPA PLAN ORDINANCE:** Auditor Tiffany Deakins stated that BakerTilly suggested the County to create an Ordinance to allocate the APRA funds that the County has received as revenue loss so that can allow for other uses of the funds rather than the 4 major buckets. Commissioners are working on a plan for the ARPA funds and would like to table the ordinance until a plan is established.

**BAKERTILLY BUDGET ASSISTANCE REQUEST:** Auditor Tiffany Deakins has requested to hire BakerTilly to assist with the 2023 budget. There is a not to exceed \$15,000 in the agreement, which Tiffany stated that she will not need to utilize all of the assistance that they are offering to provide. Commissioner Banks stated that he would like to see this paid for out of the Auditors office budget and is in favor of the request. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve a favorable pass to Council, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**FACILITIES REQUESTS:** Commissioner Banks presented two facility requests. The first is for the use of the Courthouse square for the farmer's market. Every Saturday starting Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> to Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. They would also like to use the drive on the west side of the Courthouse for a children's activity area. The Fire Chief stated that it would be ok to block that drive for the morning. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request is for the use of the gazebo on May 5<sup>th</sup> for the National Day of Prayer from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the request with a second by Baysinger and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**MINUTES AND CLAIMS:** The claim distributions from April 19, 2022, through May 2, 2022, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Schrumpf checked the accounts payable, and payroll claims and noted that there were no concerns. Schrumpf made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, with a second by Baysinger and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the regular meeting minutes from April 18, 2022. Commissioner Baysinger made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

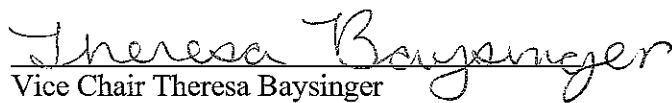
**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Auditor Tiffany Deakins let the Commissioners know that the 2021 audit with State Board of Accounts has started and will be going for the next few months. Commissioner Baysinger wanted to remind everyone to make sure that they go vote on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Commissioner Banks wanted to thank the poll workers for all of their hard work and to also state that the week of May 1-7 is National Correctional Officers week and wanted to let our officers know that the County appreciates all of them.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 2:08 PM.

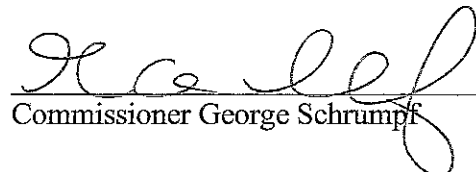
#### WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




Chair Chad Banks



Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger



Commissioner George Schrumpf

Attest: 

Tiffany Deakins, Auditor