

July 31, 2017

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, July 31, 2017. Chairman Scott E. Givens called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioners present: Givens, Barry J. Eppley and Brian K. Hauptert. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the July 24, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

John Martin, County Highway Superintendent presented the Phase 2A Bridge Inspection Report for 2017. These 11 bridges are rated at a level which requires them to be inspected every 12 months. The report did not identify any significant changes since the last inspection.

Martin asked for permission to submit two additional appropriation requests to County Council:

1. \$50,000 for design of a new deck on Bridge 701 (Walnut Street over Grant Creek in LaFontaine)
2. \$120,000 for design of a replacement for Bridge 151 (1200 S over Cart creek)

The commissioners approved the request.

Bob Land, Wabash County Sheriff reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 88 inmates with 40 inmates housed at the Miami County Jail, 8 inmates at the Elkhart County Jail and 7 inmates at the Wells County Jail.

Land requested permission to ask Council for an additional appropriation for inmate transfer out of County General. The commissioners approved the request.

Keith Walters, County EMA Director presented a grant for funding to help update the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan. The commissioners signed the grant. Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. The grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is for \$16,738.03, which requires a county match of \$5,579.58 for a total of \$22,317.61.

Steve Downs, County Attorney stated:

1. He has a draft resolution amending the county employee handbook. It currently states, "Overpayments will also be corrected in the next regular paycheck." This is in conflict with Indiana statute. The amended resolution shall read: "Overpayments will be corrected as permitted by Indiana Code 22-2-6-4."
2. He has reviewed and approved the contract with SRI Inc. for the county tax sale.

The commissioners will review both items on Monday, August 7, 2017.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director presented:

1. A license agreement for the use of the Roann Covered Bridge for a wedding on October 14, 2017. The commissioners signed the agreement.
2. The 2018 Wabash County Government holiday schedule for approval. It follows the State holiday schedule. Eppley made a motion to approve the schedule. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Dils will send a copy to the department heads.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor was present with nothing to report.

Kelly Schenkel, Wabash County Assessor requested permission to purchase a new computer. Her computer has not been working properly all summer and Intrasect has recommended replacing it since it is more than six years old. The total quote for a new computer is \$1,784.07 (computer \$997.07, software \$399 and labor \$388). The commissioners asked Schenkel if she could pay for the computer out of her budgets. Schenkel stated she could not. Hauptert made a motion to

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approve that the request be paid from Cum Cap-Computer Equipment. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Paul Hayden, Northeast Field Office Director for Indiana Landmarks gave an overview of the changes which have taken place during the restoration of the old county jail and sheriff's office. Hayden stated the roof and gutters have been replaced and the interior and exterior demolition has been completed. Restoration of the front porch is on hold pending design approval by Indiana Landmarks. The commissioners thanked Hayden for the update.

Sheila Butcher stated she wanted to raise concerns about the Wabash River Trail (WRT). She previously sent emails and a copy of a quit claim deed. Butcher stated "the quit claim deed was for the Lagro canal train from the Indiana Service Corp. to the Town of Lagro. Since the Town of Lagro had abandoned that street, development, the property no longer belongs to the Town of Lagro and they (WRT) have been trespassing on Basin Street." Butcher has contacted INDOT about Bridge 524 right-a-way. INDOT is currently searching where they have released the right-of-way and have not been able to locate anything. INDOT does not believe they have released the right-of-way. Public safety is a large issue that is arising from this project. The Butchers are asking for a DNR stay. WRT tried to get it dismissed but it did not happen. They have a stay in front of the DNR on August 23, 2017. The commissioners thanked Mrs. Butcher for her update.

The commissioners reviewed the following items:

IDEM Notice- Office of Air Quality – Wabash Parkview Hospital - Approved

With no other business to come before the Board of Commissioners the meeting was adjourned. The commissioners will next meet on Monday, August 7, 2017.

Also present: Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Mackenzi Klemann, News Journal reporter David Fenker, Ron Bakehorn, Wabash County Treasurer LuAnn Layman, Wabash County Recorder Lori Draper, County Plan Director Mike Howard and Intrasect Technologies service technician Joe Wright.