

## JANUARY 12, 2009

Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, January 12, 2009. Chairman Brian Hauptert called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 A.M. with all members present: Brian K. Hauptert, Scott E. Givens, and Barry Eppley. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway. The minutes of the January 5, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written; his motion was seconded by Givens and passed with a 3-0 vote.

Phil Amones, County Highway Supervisor, reported;

1. Amones had received a Letter from INDOT:  
No asbestos was found on inspection of Bridge #13.
2. A request from Verizon to bury cable at 2575 W 1400 N.

Leroy Striker, Wabash County Sheriff, reported;

1. The daily population last week in the jail was 102.8.
2. A Sheriff's vehicle was involved in a collision over the weekend. The vehicle struck a deer with minor damage.

Sandy Beeks, E-911 Director, presented revised 2009 budgets to the Commissioners. The State is requiring separate funds for landline and wireless E-911 fees. Beeks stated funds need to be appropriated for the new E-911 Wireless fund. Givens made a motion to approve the funds from the new E-911 to go before Council for Approval; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed with a 3-0 vote.

Steve Downs, County Attorney, reported;

1. He has reviewed contracts on new assessment for trending and construction with Accurate Assessments. The contracts were acceptable. Downs stated he would return them to Assessor, Kelley Schenkel.
2. Downs reviewed the Animal Control Ordinance discussed in last weeks meeting. The ordinance prohibits owners from leaving animals outside in the elements unprotected. It also gives power to the animal warden to impound the animal and fine the owners if the animal warden finds neglect has occurred. Downs stated he had spoken with the Animal Control Board and stated they need to make sure the Animal Warden is aware of the ordinance and the authority the ordinance gives.
3. Downs is working on Personnel manual changes with Jim Dils.
4. Hauptert requested Downs start a draft on a resolution to establish the new E-911 Wireless fund as an interest bearing fund.
5. Downs stated the need to address a letter/claim from an inmate with potential litigation. Downs will review discuss with Commissioners in a future Executive Session. Commissioners will review with Downs.

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Jim Dils, County Coordinator, reported;

1. Dils stated the Sheriff's liability policy cap is currently set at one (1) million. He requested this be raised to a two (2) million dollar policy. The cost to make the change would be approximately \$600. Eppley made a motion to raise the cap on the Sheriff's liability policy to two (2) million for the increased premium cost totaling \$600; his motion was seconded by Givens and passed with a 3-0 vote.
2. Dils presented Wabash Valley Refuse recycling fees. Dils stated the best option was a weekly pick up with a four (4) cubic yard container that Wabash Valley Refuse would provide at \$540 per year. Dils stated there will also be a fuel surcharge that will fluctuate with the current pricing. Dils stated he would like to go with a two (2) year contract and did not see this as a problem with Wabash Valley Refuse. Eppley motioned to approve using Wabash Valley for our recycling needs with a four (4) cubic yard container on a two (2) year contract; his motion was seconded by Givens and passed with a 3-0 vote.
3. Dils still reviewing the Elevator maintenance fees. It looks like there could be a slight savings of approximately \$700 per year with the price comparison he has checked.
4. Dils requested approval to attend the Human Resource portion of the AIC's Elected Officials Seminar on January 23. The meeting is dedicated to employee handbook policies. There is a \$75.00 fee to attend. Commissioners unanimously approved Dils attendance of the AIC's Seminar on January 23.
5. Hauptert asked Dils if there were any updates on the probation project which includes adding an additional person and the modification of current office space. Dils spoke with Duggan last week. Duggan has a new employee set to start in late January, and they are in the process of obtaining quotes for the project. Dils will contact Duggan to discuss the type of office layout he would like to create.

Mike Howard, Planning Director, presented a zoning change in La Fontaine located at 302 Western Avenue, La Fontaine. The zoning change would be from a Residential 1 to General Business. This has been approved by the zoning Board and forwarded to the Commissioners. Givens made a motion to approve the zoning change from R1 to General Business at 302 Western Avenue in La Fontaine; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed with a 3-0 vote. It was signed by Commissioners.

Kelley Schenkel, Assessor, reported;

1. Schenkel presented two (2) contracts which Downs had addressed earlier in the meeting as acceptable; Trending and New Construction Contracts. The contracts are with Accurate Assessments. The Trending contract totals \$34,200 (up from \$25,000 last year) and the

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New Construction contract totals \$15,000. Commissioners unanimously approved and signed the Trending and New Construction contracts together totaling \$49,200.

2. Schenkel also requested permission to attend the Assessors Conference on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The cost for the conference is \$180 per person; \$720 for four (4) employees. The rooms for a two (2) overnights for 2 rooms would be \$412 for a total cost of \$1,132. Schenkel stated she would like to encumber monies from her Dues & Registrations to cover a portion of the cost. Commissioners unanimously approved the request to attend the conference on January 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>.

Cheri Slee, Surveyor, reported:

1. Slee requested Commissioners approval on the Authorization of Manatron to connect MVP Tax to her drain calc system with GIS which assists with drainage assessment collections and hearings totaling up to \$3,000. Commissioners unanimously approved and signed Letter of Authorization.
2. Slee has purchased a pole and a bracket for the hand held GPS units totaling \$389.

Jane Ridgeway, Wabash County Auditor:

1. Renewed requests for a break room for the courthouse employees. Commissioners stated Ridgeway should speak with Bob Brown, EMA Director and see if the old Commissioners meeting room would be a viable option.
2. Ridgeway had received an e-mail warning from the State regarding Excise Tax collection this year. Due to the economy, people are not purchasing newer vehicles and this is affecting the amount of excise that will be collected. All counties taxing units will be affected by the lower amount of excise revenue and need to be prepared for this lower excise amount.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the following items:

**Payroll Claims and Allowance Docket for period ended 1-10-09**

**GASB Fixed Asset Report Received From Highway**

**Tiede, Metz and Downs Invoice for December, 2008**

**Wabash County Council on Aging – Request for 2009 Allocation**

**Verizon North, Inc, - Request to bury cable (2)**

**Reminder: AIC's Elected Officials Seminar – January 23-24, 2009**

**Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission**

**Board of Health – letter with meetings to be held January 20<sup>th</sup>, April 21, July 21, and October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the EMA Communication Room**

**Year End Transfers of Funds within the Commissioners funds**

No other business, the meeting recessed. Commissioners will meet in regular session on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse at 9:00 A.M.