

## MARCH 9, 2009

Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, March 9, 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 J. Eppley. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway. The minutes of the March 2, 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 Superintendent, presented two (2) requests from INDOT for unofficial detours: 1) replace bridge north of Speicherville on State Road 13 and 2) State Road 124 between 650 W - 750 W, a one mile stretch. Amones stated there is no estimated time frame for detour closures or start date. Amones stated March 25<sup>th</sup> is the date for the State to let bids for this project. Amones also stated if any damages occur to the county roads, the State will reimburse. Hauptert stated we may need to have visual comparison of the detour route before and after to confirm if any damage occurs.

County Attorney Steve Downs received a call from United Consulting. They missed the deadline to submit the North Manchester Covered Bridge for Historical Bridge funding. INDOT and Federal Highway are working with United and stated it probably does not matter because the engineering process needs to be started for the bridge to be considered. Amones stated this bridge is probably a year and half away. Amones stated we need to prioritize our projects and start engineering to be considered. United will review this with the Commissioners at Purdue Road School this week.

Bob Brown, EMA Director, presented a proclamation for "Severe Weather Awareness Week" for the week of March 15-21, 2009. Chairman Hauptert signed the proclamation certificate.

Steve Downs, County Attorney, reported:

1. Wabash County had received approval on a grant from INDOT regarding implementing crossing arms at 800 N. Downs had submitted a petition to inquire on what standards the State based their decision that requires crossing arms at 800 N. He has received no response though he has repeatedly tried to contact INDOT legal for several weeks. Downs stated he will submit the agreement after Commissioners sign it with a cover letter stating if we must install the crossing arms at 800 N then ask that they return application to us.
2. The new BIS video conferencing system in the courts is still having a few problems. Givens stated last week it was not working. Downs and Commissioners are holding the final payment on until

## MARCH 9, 2009 CONTINUED

- they are sure everyone is agreement that the system is up and running well. Givens stated we need to contact the Judges on this.
3. Downs had requested a few changes and clarifications from HPL on a contract submitted for inmate medical coverage at the jail. HPL complied with Down's request and set a 2 year contract with a fixed price for those 2 years. Last week Striker received a competitive contract quote from Advanced Correctional Health Care. Since then, HPL has started on a revised contract that they will send to Striker. This new contract from HPL has lowered the original price from approximately \$97,000 to \$89,900; the per diem has dropped from \$95 to \$90 per inmate per month for up to 95 inmates; and excess over 95 went from \$1.80 to \$.87 per individual. Downs would like to review the new draft to make sure the changes requested have been implemented in the new contract. He will speak with Striker to see if an actual detailed comparison has been done between these two proposals.

Jim Dils, Wabash County Coordinator, reported:

1. Southside Window Façade Project at the courthouse is tentatively set to begin on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.
2. Searce and Rudisel have prepared an Invitation to Bid on the courthouse doors which will be advertised on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup>. A pre-bid meeting is set for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 P.M. at the courthouse. Dils and Jeff Kumfer will be in attendance. Commissioners are welcome to attend. Bids will be received Monday March 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. Commissioners unanimously agreed. Dils stated he had e-mailed invitations about the bid meeting to five contractors who had shown interest in the South Façade Project.
3. Dils stated a few weeks ago leaks from the roof were found in the probation department. Dils and Commissioners Custodian Dick Smith placed some buckets for a temporary fix. Dils stated Smith has contacted a roofer who has done some previous work on the Judicial Building. This will be re-evaluated this morning.
4. The Health Department refrigerator/freezer had a relay out. It was considered critical. The alarm did go off. It was a mechanical failure. Parts were located and repairs completed the same day. The service technician suggested purchasing spare parts to have on hand in case this occurs in the future. Dils requested they wait on this. Givens stated in the worst case the vaccines or any other item needing the system could be moved to the hospital. Commissioners stated if Health Department wanted to purchase extra parts, they could do so with their own funding.
5. Animal Shelter would like to engage some volunteers for telephone assistance and do some work around the facility. They have a proposed form that the volunteers would sign. Dils stated he

## MARCH 9, 2009 CONTINUED

contacted the county's insurance agent to see if Workman's Comp and liability would cover any claims. Ridgeway said she thought this should be discussed with the Animal Shelter Board.

6. Dils has received a request for a personnel switch between the Clerk's office and Superior Court. Both employees are aware and agree to the changing of positions and salaries. This transfer does not affect seniority.
7. Jail Committee meeting will not be held concurrent with the Council meeting March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dils contacted Umbaugh & RQAW and they have agreed to meet another time possibly in April.
8. Dils requested an Executive Session on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to review proposed changes in the Employee Handbook. Commissioners were open to meet any time on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dils will contact Downs to see his schedule will allow and get back with a set time.

Lori Draper, Clerk of the Courts, reported:

1. Superior Court Judge Goff's computer has failed. Draper presented a quote from CSI for \$760. Goff would like to go with CSI and have this added to the current maintenance. Draper stated he may need to add Microsoft Word and Excel; some systems are not equipped with new updates. Draper stated a quarter of the payment could be taken out of her Incentive IV-D-2 funds because Judge Goff works with divorce/child support cases. Draper stated her office is out of licenses on Word and Excel. Draper stated they will see if Judge Goff's current license will carry over. Eppley made a motion to approve \$760 for the CSI quote with the additional cost of Microsoft Word and Excel software if needed; his motion was seconded by Givens and passed with a 3-0 vote.
2. Draper would like to use her Incentive IV-D-2 to pay a portion of another employee's salary which would carry through until 2011. Commissioners unanimously agreed.
3. She reported she is going to the Clerk's Conference this week.

Jane Ridgeway reported:

1. She, County Assessor Kelly Schenkel and Treasurer Sharon Shaw participated in a DLGF Phase II Certification conference call last week. Counties are still going to have to pay for system testing, estimated at \$7,000 per county. This will be difficult because the DLGF wants to follow a tax parcel from assessing to billing to collection and settlement on our live data to be sure all software is interacting. The test scenarios are difficult, plus it could mean a system shut down that would affect our ability to run the normal daily business requirements and vendors are not positive it would not affect our live data. DLGF is still working on answers to a great deal of questions proposed.

## MARCH 9, 2009 CONTINUED

2. The Twin Lakes Subdivision has 130 parcel deeds that may need to be pulled to research for exceptions. GIS consultant Bill Holder and Surveyor Cheri Slee stated this is not a GIS issue. Ridgeway expressed her concern that this appears to be a very detailed project and could take up to three or four weeks to research with the normal busy schedule in her office. Hauptert stated it may not be necessary to pull all deeds, if we could pull a few sample properties with frontage. He stated the developer left the roads to the association but because the developer and the project “went under” the association was never formed. Eppley stated we may need to research to see who owns the roadways; Givens said no one currently owns the roads and Eppley stated we need to make sure the county is not involved as Slee has stated the county does not have ownership to the roads and the Commissioners never accepted the roads. Commissioners discussed it would be a good idea to look into 3 or 4 of the deeds for an idea of what the issue is concerning the roads then the Commissioners will take the matter under advisement.
3. Ridgeway stated she spoke with SRI on Friday, their tax sale seminar will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. Ridgeway and Deputy Auditor Marcie Shepherd will be attending. When tax sale laws changed last year, properties were either sold or went to Commissioners after going through the process only one time instead of two as in previous years. Ridgeway stated the Commissioners will need to decide what to do with currently held Tax Certificates. SRI advises Commissioners not to deed the properties to the County as this could cause an issue with liability. SRI feels it would be good to send them through another regular Tax Sale this year; that way they could sell the properties for the minimum tax due. Ridgeway stated she should soon have a list of properties eligible for Tax Sale from the Treasurer for a possible sale to be scheduled in October. Commissioners will take under advisement. Ridgeway also encouraged Commissioners to support the new “bounty hunter” legislation. A “bounty hunter” can assist an individual who has lost a property in a tax sale by bringing them in to claim their surplus; but then the “bounty hunter” charges an exorbitant finder’s fee. The law allows the owner or a vested party of the property to simply come to the courthouse and claim the money. The new legislation proposed would limit access on the claim of money to the owner or heir; if not the party must acquire a court order for a claim.
4. The application process for new projects for the new stimulus package requires a county procurement process according to Bev Ferry, Council on Aging Executive Director. Eppley stated they want to build a bus barn. INDOT is hosting a meeting on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis on the procurement

## MARCH 9, 2009 CONTINUED

- process. Ferry will be unable to attend. She stated her bookkeeper Judy Dire will be in attendance. Commissioners will be unable to attend. They will all be attending Road School at Purdue. Commissioners were fine with Dire as the representative.
5. Hauptert stated the 211 services are moving forward. The Community Foundation will be covering the cost for the 2009 year, but they requested the County pledge \$2,500. Commissioners unanimously agreed. Hauptert stated it could be placed in the 2010 CEDIT Fund budget.
  6. Striker will be submitting an additional appropriation request to Council on March 23<sup>rd</sup> for two (2) new employees for the jail. Ridgeway stated Commissioners may also need an additional appropriation for the County's share of Employer taxes, PERF and benefits. Givens stated he would like to see the calculations on the Commissioners portion of the possible new salary expenses.
  7. Ridgeway stated she would like permission to move forward with the removal of the VAX computer, printer and tower in the Auditor's Office. The removal of the equipment and the mounting of the wall adaptor would be \$2,800 and would be paid from Courthouse building repairs. Ridgeway will check with Surveyor Slee to make sure she is completely finished with the old equipment now. Givens made a motion to approve the removal and wall mount for \$2,800; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 3-0 vote.
  8. Ridgeway received a complaint regarding corn that has been spread along State Road 15 at the Treaty elevator. It is approximately a foot deep. The individual is concerned that it will cause a terrible odor again this year. Eppley stated it is a far smaller pile than in the past and the odor should be less, the corn is irretrievable and that is why they spread it out; it is on their ground and not on any right of way.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the following items:

Payroll Claims and Allowance Docket for period ended 3-7-09

Tiede, Metz and Downs Invoice for February 2009

Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission: Agenda – March 11, 2009 and Minutes of January 14, 2009

USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture: Indiana & Wabash County

Wabash County Animal Shelter report – 1/5/2009 to 3/2/2009

MSD Bus Turn around

Phase II Certification – DLGF

Dexter-Axle; 2<sup>nd</sup> Amended Notice of Entire Plant Closing

IDEM; Air Quality – Ford Meter Box

No other business, the meeting recessed. Commissioners will meet in regular session on Monday, March 16, 2009 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse at 9:00 A.M.

\* Approved as written – March 16, 2009