

MARCH 16, 2009

Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, March 16, 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 9, 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, was attending an INDOT seminar on federal "stimulus" funds and was not present at the meeting. Amones had given Ridgeway a request from Verizon to bury cable at 1631 N 150 W for Commissioners to sign. The Board reviewed the request and approved it on Amones recommendation.

Leroy Striker, Wabash County Sheriff, reported:

1. The average daily population in the jail last week was 100.5. Today the population was 90. Striker and the Commissioners were pleased to see the number below the 100 mark.
2. The steps on the south side of the jail leading to Community Corrections offices have started to deteriorate and a handrail has come loose. Striker stated he is concerned for safety as well as liability issues. The area has been taped off with police tape. Striker suggested that the steps be removed as this entrance is not necessary as access is available without using this entrance. Striker requested the Board look at the area and give their thoughts on how to proceed. Commissioners agreed to look at the steps following the Drainage Board meeting.
3. Inmate Medical Coverage: Striker has not received the revised HPL contract.
4. Video Conferencing: Striker has a conference call today with BIS to discuss some of the issues that they are having with the system. Striker stated there are always "bugs" to work out in any new system. Currently the jail is the host entity for the system. They are considering having the court as the host entity. BIS is working on this possible change and other "bugs" in the system.

Bob Brown, EMA Executive Director, reported:

1. The County will receive a Homeland Security Reimbursement Grant for salaries for Brown and Deputy Director of Administration Rachel Guenin totaling \$24,200.74. The grant covers dates from October 1, 2007 thru September 30, 2008. The amount is 50% of salaries and 13% of fringe benefits.
2. Brown suggested a meeting with the E-911 Committee to review the proposed installation of an 800 MHz amplification system on an antenna in North Manchester. Brown stated there are areas in North Manchester where it is difficult to acquire a signal. This amplification will provide

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better reception for the North Manchester Police and Fire, County Sheriff, Wabash City Police, other fire and rescue units that may be called for mutual aid and EMA. Commissioners will take under advisement.

Steve Downs, County Attorney reported;

1. Downs Spoke with INDOT on pending inquiries and they have made no decision.
2. Downs is reviewing an updated version of the Wabash County Police Retirement Plan for the County Council and the Commissioners.*

Jim Dils, County Coordinator, reported:

1. The South Façade Window Project is set to start today. The window removal process will begin tomorrow.
2. Last week Dils commented on a leak on the roof of Memorial hall. A Wabash Valley Restoration representative met with Dils and Commissioners Custodian Dick Smith to review. There are two areas of concern; 1) lack of proper caulking on a vent; 2) where the old and the new structure meet. Dils stated the repairs should be around \$200 and requested approval for said repairs when the worker is on site which should be in the next few days. Commissioners gave permission to proceed.
3. Following the March 23rd Commissioners meeting there will be an Executive Session to review the proposed changes to the Employee Handbook.
4. There is to be a joint meeting on April 27th with Council, Commissioners and Jail Committee. Dils stated a set time has not yet been established.
5. We have been notified of an adjustment increase in the workman's comp insurance premium following an annual audit; the total is \$10,549. The reason for the adjustment is due to the employee unused sick leave pay-out in 2008. Under workman's comp liability regulations this would be considered an increase in salaries and wages paid. The carrier sent paperwork documenting this regulation. Dils has asked Downs to review.

Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway reported:

1. Commissioners Custodian Smith requested the Commissioners look at the retaining wall across from the jail, along the south side of Memorial Hall. Smith would like them to consider what repair can be done to make it more attractive. Commissioners agreed to look at this following the Drainage Board Meeting also.
2. Manatron (MVP Tax) is stating that they may not have the needed software upgrades until the middle of April, thus a May 10th tax collection date may not be attainable.
3. Ridgeway and Deputy Auditor Marcie Shepherd will be attending the SRI Tax Sale seminar in Indianapolis on Friday March 20th.

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The Commissioners reviewed and approved the following items:

Monthly Report – Clerk of the Courts – February, 2009
Auditor’s Monthly Financial Report – February, 2009
County Treasurer’s Monthly report – February, 2009
Accounts Payable Claims and Allowance Docket advertised for payment 3-16-09
Economic Development Group of Wabash – Claim of ½ of 2009 Appropriation
Notice of Public Meeting: Middle Eel River Initiative – March 16, 2009
Indiana Economic Recovery Plan – (Stimulus Plan) – Council on Aging Allocation
DLGF – Phase II Certification Testing for Counties – Update:
Temporary Loan Request – EMA Reimbursable CERT Grant Fund
Assessor’s Request for Travel Expenses; *Givens made a motion to approve; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed with a 3-0 vote.*
IDEM – Air Quality Operation Permit Renewal – PaperWorks Industries, Inc
Letter from Mediacom: Upcoming changes to channel lineup
Civil Notice: Lawson vs. Price Summons
Tax Sale Surplus Claim to Heather Runyon for property owned by Herbert Stellar.
Umbaugh – Tax Impact Statement – newly created TIF districts City of Wabash

No other business, the meeting recessed. Commissioners will meet in regular session on Monday, March 23, 2009 in the Commissioner’s Meeting Room on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse at 9:00 A.M. They will receive advertised bids for Reassessment contracts at 10:00 A.M. as advertised.

- Approved with clarifications noted on March 23, 2009.