

## APRIL 6, 2009

Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, April 6, 2009. Chairman Brian Haupert called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 A.M. with all members present: Brian K. Haupert, 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 30, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes with clarifications noted (concerning the deductions for the Alternate bids received for the Courthouse Door Project and the INDOT letter to be sent by Downs); his motion was seconded by Givens and passed 3-0.

Phil Amones, County Highway Supervisor, gave his weekly report:

1. Received a complaint about Higgle Curve – his recommendation is to consider a lower speed zone from the overpass to the stone quarry. Amones suggests lowering it from 55 mph to 45 mph. Givens moved to lower the speed limit through that area as recommended. His motion was seconded by Eppley and passed 3-0. The Board directed County Attorney Steve Downs to research the county sign ordinance and draft an amendment for the new speed zone.

2. Amones asked the Board to sign the official Notice for Bids for the revised resurfacing projects. The Commissioners set April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. to receive bids.

3. Amones noted that water reported over the road at the intersection of 400 S – 200 E will be investigated.

4. An update on the State stimulus highway projects reported that the expected 67.1 M will be reduced to 18.9 M for the Fort Wayne District. Amones estimates Wabash County's share may be less than \$500,000. Also the only roads to be considered for the Stimulus projects have to already be on the federal highway "on systems list" and eligible. Amones will confer with Steve Jones of United Consulting about changing projects on our submitted applications; he stated the Dora Road from Wabash Corporation limits to America Road and 700 W from St. Rd. 16 to St. Rd. 114 are two of the roads that should qualify. Federal Aid applications have to be in by April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Steve Hicks, Wabash County Sheriff Chief Deputy, represented Sheriff Leroy Striker and reported:

1. Average daily population in the jail last week was 96.65 with a high of 103 last week and a population this morning of 96.
2. Hicks also reported the new cars are about done and will soon be on the road.

Bob Brown, EMA Director, reminded the Board of a meeting at 1:00 P.M. Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. In another matter, Chief Deputy Hicks wanted to compliment Brown on the excellent job organizing the EMA training exercise for eleven counties at Grissom last Saturday.

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County Attorney Steve Downs discussed the grant agreement sent to INDOT and the proposed Ordinance Establishing and Creating the Wabash County Prosecuting Attorney's Forfeiture Fund from the Prosecutor for Council and Commissioner approval on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Also the final revised HPL Inmate Health Care Service Contract was reviewed and signed by the Commissioners.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator, reported:

1. Courthouse Door Projects – bids received have been reviewed – D-T Construction was the low bidder and seems to meet all of the specifications. Architect Jeff Kumfer of Scarce-Rudisel was wondering which if any alternate bid options the Commissioners had decided to accept. Kumfer would like to draw up the contract but needs this decision before he can. The alternate options involve replacing all 12 doors or fewer doors with inoperable panels and how many with crash bars (panic hardware) installed on them. There would be substantial savings on the cost without having panic hardware on all doors. We also need to meet with the approval of the City Building Inspector. The Board wants to talk with Scarce-Rudisel and D-T Construction before making a decision – they decided to take this matter under advisement for now.
2. Amendments to the Employee Health Insurance plan for the annual renewal, requiring the Commissioners approval and Chairman's signature: a) Amendment #3: Short-term Disability would not begin until all other accumulated compensatory leave has been exhausted; b) Amendment #4: Wellness benefits increasing from \$250 to \$500 for adults and adding coverage category for morbid obesity surgery to be covered 80/20 but would not apply to the maximum out-of-pocket; c) Contract for Intensive Care, PPL annual carrier renewals; and d) Some required amendments based on changes in the federal law: a. Michele's law; b. Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act and c) Special COBRA Assistance on involuntary termination under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These changes are not optional for our approval but will be incorporated in one document for Board approval and Chairman signature and will be distributed to employees. Givens moved to approve the amendments for the insurance policy, Eppley seconded the motion and they were approved by a 3-0 vote.
3. The Factoring Committee for Job Classifications will need to meet in Joint Executive Session with the Commissioners and Council along with Kent Irwin. Suggested time is April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 P.M.; if this is acceptable with the Board and the Council – Dils and Ridgeway will make the necessary arrangements and notifications.

Sharon Shaw, Wabash County Treasurer, reported she is ready to make a decision on a vendor to print the tax statements. The company we have used for the last nine years was associated with Manatron, but they have chosen someone different (Worrell) this year but the company she is recommending is A.E. Boyce which is approximately \$4000 less than the others. This will be the first year they have printed tax bills but are the same company that printed

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and distributed our Homestead Rebate Checks last year and we were satisfied with them. Miami, Howard and Huntington counties have signed with them. The Board gave their unanimous approval.

Wabash resident and former City Council Member Paul Lewis appeared to discuss the traffic conditions on Harrison Avenue and Alber Street due to the detour on Cass Street which will probably not be open until spring of 2010. He feels the State does nothing about keeping the 18-wheelers off of the residential streets and the detour is poorly marked; he has complained to the City but felt he should also come to the County. Lewis also registered his complaint that the Federal, State and Local government is not living within their means, and is against the LOHUT wheel tax, which he feels will devastate some small businesses. He feels this is the wrong time to add taxes due to the economy.

Mike Howard, Planning Director, requested the Commissioners replace the Fax machine on the second floor as it has “died” and cannot be repaired. He reported a quote of \$500 for a used one and \$930 for a new one. In discussing with County Coordinator Dils it was decided to recommend setting up the new copier in the second floor workroom as a fax. This can be done for an increase in the lease of \$17.25 a month or \$207 a year. The Board agreed this would be a best option. Dils will follow up with Oce, Inc for the required installation and changes.

Jane Ridgeway, Wabash County Auditor, reported:

- A. Annual Report of Congressional Common School Funds as of April 30, 2009; since the Congressional School Principal and Interest Funds have been transferred to the State our annual report has been completed. There was \$504.47 in interest collected this past year and our report now shows zero funds held by the county. The report was signed by the Commissioners.
- B. Hasler Postal Scales submitted an offer to update the U.S. Postal Service rates changing May 11, 2009 for \$260 or an alternative offer for an Annual Rate Change Protection package for \$275. The Auditor and Treasurer have recommended the Annual Rate Protection package. The Board approved the offer as recommended by a 3-0 vote on a motion by Givens that was seconded by Eppley.
- C. Third Amended Notice of Entire Plant Closing received from Dexter Axle to advise that the separation dates for some employees have been extended.
- D. Letter from Public Defender Commission stating the Wabash County non-capital reimbursement for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008 will be reimbursed at 33.9% instead of 40% maximum due to a shortage of funds.
- E. Received from the Economic Development Group of Wabash County copies of Confirming Resolutions 2009-4, 2009-5 and 2009-6 adopted by the City of Wabash Redevelopment Commission after hearings on March 26, 2009 for the “Miami and Market Streets Economic Development Area”; “Wabash Business

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Park Economic Development Area”; and the “Ford Meter Box Economic Development Area”.

F. Claims for Commissioner approval from Tiede, Metz and Downs for services of County Attorney Steve Downs for the month of March for \$1,230; IntraSect Technologies for Electronic HP Care Pack 6-hour Call-to-Repair Hardware Support Post Warranty; Invoice from K-M Floor Covering for carpeting for the Probation Office for \$196.70; Outstanding invoice from Norfolk & Southern for \$3,190.40; INDOT Invoice for Contract # B-29289 Change Order #1 for \$1,000 and Contract #R-0500099 Change Order #1 for \$14,000.

G. Reminder: Association of Indiana Counties Northeast District Meeting to be held in Auburn and the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM; and Grant County Economic Growth Council meeting on property taxes with Larry DeBoer on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Ivy Tech Conference Center.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the following items:

Payroll Claims and Allowance Docket for Pay Period ended 4-4-09

Accounts Payable Claims and Allowance Docket advertised for payment 4-6-09

Commissioner Attorney – Steve Downs Invoice submitted for March 2009

Public Defender Commission letter – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008 Non-Capital Reimbursements

No other business, the meeting recessed. Commissioners will meet in regular session on Monday, April 13, 2009 in the Commissioner’s Meeting Room on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse at 9:00 A.M.

Approved as written: April 13, 2009