

JULY 6, 2009

Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, July 6, 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 June 29, 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:

1. Presented a request from the Tippecanoe Audubon Society regarding property totaling 19.2 acres at CR1400 N west of 500 E. Originally this area was a natural wetlands preserve. Over the years, this area has dried out. TAS would like to incorporate tiles in the R-O-W to divert water to this area. Givens made a motion to allow TAS to install a tile to divert water to the property; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed with a 3-0 vote.
2. Reviewed the Hoover Bridge maintenance request from resident Fred Hoover. County Attorney Steve Downs stated the original contract agreement does not appear to hold the County to any legal obligation on any ongoing maintenance of this bridge. This is not classified as a bridge and has never been added to our counties bridge list. It is on private property and outside the county's R-O-W. Amones stated an engineer from Butler Fairman & Seifert looked at Hoover's bridge last week and stated it does need work. Amones said he had spoken with Hoover regarding the evaluation and repair requirements by BF&S. Hauptert requested Downs write a formal letter informing Fred Hoover that the County has no obligation to provide maintenance on this bridge.
3. Downs has reviewed and approved the bids submitted on Bridge #175 at Richvalley. Givens made a motion to accept the American Contracting bid totaling \$398,566.66; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed with a 3-0 vote.
4. Amones will begin dig tests on the soil at 1400 N to check for peat moss.

Bob Brown, EMA Director, reported:

1. Reminder to Hauptert regarding an EMAC LAPC Citizens Core meeting to be held Wednesday at 1:00 P.M.
2. A 400 Course training session will be held Tuesday, July 7th at Honeywell for Senior Management individuals.
3. Brown will be attending a training course at Grissom Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Steve Downs, County Attorney, reviewed the SRI Invalid Tax Release from Baker and Daniels, Inc. for the invalid tax sale reimbursements for the 2007 tax sale. Ridgeway stated there is a \$6 (interest) difference in the release and

her claim for the county and SRI will send us a check for the difference. Ridgeway stated she feels the declaration is accurate. Downs stated we will cross out the confidentiality clause, sign, and return. Eppley made a motion to approve the SRI Invalid 2007 Tax Sales release; his motion was seconded by Givens and passed with a 3-0 vote.

Trula Cramer, Wabash Convention and Visitors' Bureau, reviewed the 2010 CVB budget totaling \$94,000 and a break down of the marketing strategy. Cramer reported the following accomplishments in 2008:

1. Created a user friendly website which they can maintain at the office.
2. Increased current employee Joyce Summers' hours to 20.
3. Held a county festival workshop for festival planners.
4. Partnered with the Wabash County Chamber of Commerce in purchasing tote bags for an event last year.
5. Partnered with the Wabash County Museum and Honeywell Center on a five hundred (500) piece mailing for tour operators.
6. Eight (8) specific tours from various other counties that brought in \$4,444. Also had tours with a couple class reunions. Tours are down a bit from previous years.
7. Worked with Bob McCallen creating packets with our county information available.
8. Cramer stated CVB is doing very well. They recently purchased an OCE copier. Cramer stated Commissioners are welcome to attend the CVB meetings held the 3rd Monday of each month at 5:30 P.M. at the Museum. Cramer thanked the Commissioners for their support through the years. Hauptert thanked Cramer for all her hard work.

Auditor Jane Ridgeway reported:

1. The original Bond Ordinance clearly states the Judicial Center Bonds should be paid from the revenue deposited in the County Economic Development Income Tax Fund according to IC 6-3.5-7. Ridgeway stated the CEDIT Fund has sufficient funds if they do not pay city and county ambulance appropriations from that Fund. Ridgeway presented a Transfer of Funds and Additional Appropriation Request for the Commissioners to present to the Council to request returning the payment process to its original structure prior to the changes made for the 2009 Budget: Bond payment to be paid from Wabash County CEDIT Fund and the City and County Ambulance appropriations to be paid from County General Fund. Also a request to reimburse the CEDIT Fund a total of \$154,275 for ambulance payments to date.
2. Presented a Transfer Request totaling \$5,000 from Small Business Development to EDG for payment on the new contract agreement. Commissioners reviewed, approved, and signed the transfer.
3. The new AIC guide directories have been well received by the public. Ridgeway thanked Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Sheila Rhoades for the excellent write-up on the pamphlet.

The Commissioners reviewed and discussed salaries and wages requests for the 2010 Budget as required by Indiana Code and they agreed to recommend to the County Council that the recently completed Irwin, Waggoner & Scheele Job Classification Study findings be implemented. 2009 salaries should be frozen if they were ranked as over the internal average and increases of up to 3% be allowed if 2009 salaries are ranked under the internal average as reported in the job study completed for Wabash County. They also agreed with the Council's recommendation that Elected Officials salaries and part-time employees' wages should be frozen for the 2010 calendar year.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the following items:
Accounts Payable Claims and Allowance Docket presented for payment 7-6-09
Taxes for DNR Railroad R-O-W – Commissioners will take under advisement
City of Wabash – Hearing Notice for Unsafe Building – 585 E Hill Street, Wabash
IDEM – NPDES CAFO – General Permit Renewal Farm #ID6256 – Scott Hauptert
IDEM – Air permit application – Manchester College
IDEM – Notice of Decision: Approval – Thermafiber, Inc.

At 11:00 A.M. the Commissioners held a scheduled Court Hearing concerning an Appeal Request for Township Assistance Action. The Commissioners heard statements from both the petitioner and the Township Trustee and investigator. Following discussion and review the Commissioners voted to uphold the denial of assistance by the Township on a motion by Eppley, second by Givens and a 3-0 vote.

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

Approved as presented by Auditor – July 13, 2009