

JANUARY 17, 2006

The Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session on January 17, 2006 in the former Circuit Courtroom of the Wabash County Courthouse. President of the Commissioners Brian Haupert called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Templin moved to approve the minutes for the January 9th meeting with the clarification noted that a NIPSCO "Request to cut" was approved for Division Road, 1013' east of State Road 15. The motion was seconded by Dawes and approved by a 3-0 vote.

County Highway Supervisor Larry Rice gave his weekly report to the Commissioners:

1. Huntington Street is open following repair to the bridge.
2. A letter of understanding was received from INDOT for official and unofficial detour routes for State Road 218 while replacing a structure between 700E and 800E for approximately two months. INDOT will reimburse the county for any damages. Rice suggested an Ordinance for no commercial vehicles during the detour. Templin moved to approve, seconded by Dawes and approved by a 3-0 vote.
3. Rice had received a request from Ryan Haupert through Eads and Son for a road cut on College Street in Urbana. He stated the Highway Department would not have a problem with approving the request.
4. The Highway officials will be attending a meeting in Fort Wayne today concerning Bridge 13 Change Order Requests, Time extensions, etc; Rice said he would report back on the meeting.
5. Inquiring about the status of the old State Highway building, the Commissioners said they were not sure at this time.

Commissioner Attorney Tom Mattern reported to the Board of Commissioners the following:

1. He had reviewed the Snow Emergency Ordinance presented by EMA Director Bob Brown last week and saw no problem with it.
2. Concerning proceeding with a Commissioner's Sale of Unsold Delinquent Tax Sale Property, Mattern recommended that the Commissioners seek approval from the Wabash County Council to sale properties eligible as the law requires any valued over \$50,000 must be approved by the Council. He has prepared a joint Resolution to be presented at next week's Council meeting.

Wabash County Sheriff Leroy Striker reported an average of 94 jail inmates last week and an average of 82 this week. He mentioned that today's jail population was at 75. Striker contributes part of the reduction in population to the Community Corrections program and stated that Program Director Jeff Hobson is currently applying for a grant for housing female inmates outside of the jail. The Sheriff delivered copies of all the claims paid from the County

Corrections – Misdemeanant Fund for 2005 for Commissioner and Council review. In a final matter, Striker asked if the Board of Commissioners would like any clarification on the recent personnel changes at the jail. They had no questions.

Don Jacobs was present to invite the Commissioners to attend a hearing set for Superior Court on Friday at 2:00 P.M. This hearing is pertaining to a motion filed in Wabash Superior Court for a debt that Jacobs claims has been discharged by federal bankruptcy court. Commissioner Templin commented to Jacobs that by law the Board of Commissioners have no authority or control over the judicial system and that options for appeals were available by statute.

EMA Director Bob Brown was present to report to the Board.

1. He discussed the necessary advertising of the Emergency Snow Ordinance reviewed by Attorney Mattern earlier in the meeting and notification of county department heads as well the position created for a Snow Removal Coordinator. Declarations established by the current ordinance will remain the same.
2. Brown reported to the board that he would have an extra automatic electronic defibulator available. Following discussion, Templin moved to place the defibulator on the first floor of the main Courthouse and authorized Brown to recruit 3 or 4 employees for training. His motion was seconded by Dawes and passed on a 3-0 vote.
3. Brown has received information there may be Federal Grant money available for a GIS program. The Commissioners asked him to contact Matt Moorman who is chairing the GIS study committee.
4. As to the Additional Appropriation request for E-911 funds Brown has submitted to the County Council for consideration next week to purchase battery back ups for the radio towers. He believes he will only need one instead of two so plans to amend his request.
5. Brown once again inquired as to the moving of the remainder of the Clerk's records to more permanent storage in order for EMA to set up their operations center in the basement of the courthouse. The Commissioners and Clerk of the Circuit Court Lori Draper discussed shelving to be purchased for the storage room. The board also gave Brown permission to use the refrigerator and microwave left in the basement for his department.

After reviewing carpet bids for the Prosecutor's office and on the recommendation of Wabash County Prosecutor Bill Hartley the board agreed to accept the style of carpet selected by the Prosecutor's staff with any additional costs over the original style bid to be paid from his diversion funds. This motion was made by Templin, seconded by Dawes and approved 3-0.

A review of the written Personnel Policy for Wabash County Employees concerning employee longevity pay benefits was discussed. The policy states in part "that longevity is earned in the year in which is paid". Templin stated that the Commissioners interpreted the policy to be that if an employee leaves county employment prior to a year-end, the longevity paid will be prorated to the end of the last month of employment based on the current salary of the employee. Templin sighted the example that if an employee would be eligible for a \$1200. longevity pay benefit at year end and was terminated, resigned or retired in the first month of that year, they would be paid \$100, or if leaving in the sixth month of the year they would be paid \$600. The board was in agreement with Templin's interpretation and confirmed that definition of the policy on a motion by Templin, second by Dawes and a 3-0 vote.

The Payroll Claims and Allowance Dockets for the Period January 1-14, 2006 were approved for payment.

No other business the meeting recessed. The next meeting will be Monday, January 23rd following the Wabash County Council meeting at 8:00 A.M.