

OCTOBER 2, 2006

Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, October 2, 2006. President Brian Hauptert called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present: Brian Hauptert, Les Templin and Darle Dawes. Templin moved to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2006 meeting as written. His motion was seconded by Dawes, and approved with a 3-0 vote.

Kelly Schenkel, Wabash County Assessor, asked that the Commissioners amend the minutes of the September 11th meeting concerning the voiding of a Tax Sale Certificate. Hauptert suggested removing the phrase* “without notification of the Auditor” from the approved minutes. Templin and Dawes approved the amendment which should now read as follows:

The Auditor reviewed the Commissioners Tax Certificate Sale held September 5th with the board stating a total of 10 property certificates were sold out of the 23 offered for sale at total proceeds of \$7100. County Auditor Jane Ridgeway also requested that the sale of Tax Certificate #8525004 to Shirley and Larry Wrisk for \$100. be voided due to a misrepresentation. The property had been advertised as .55 acre and an error had been discovered by the Assessor’s office and changed to .18 acre prior to the sale. Templin moved to void the sale as recommended and his motion was seconded by Dawes and approved 3-0.

Wabash County Treasurer LuAnn Layman asked for confirmation of the date that the Commissioners approved her request for an Additional Appropriation of \$6000 to purchase a Treasurer’s Fund Accounting software program from Harris, Inc. It was confirmed that the approval was given on September 18th.

Highway Supervisor Larry Rice reported that the two large road projects for Wabash County are nearing completion.

Tom Mattern, Attorney for the Commissioners, reviewed documents set to the Commissioners concerning the Jacobs domestic court case. Mr. Jacobs had talked with the Commissioners concerning the case prior to the meeting.

Wabash County Sheriff Leroy Striker reported:

1. An average jail population of 114.47 for the past week, with 106 held in jail this morning.
2. He also presented requests for Additional Appropriations estimated to be needed before year end that he would like to request for the October 23rd County Council meeting. The requests include \$19,600 for Sheriff Department Gas & oil supplies; \$4200 for water and \$3250 for sewage at the Jail. Striker also is requesting Transfer of Funds within some of his Personal Services accounts.
3. Striker updated the Commissioners on an expansion project planning.* The committee meeting to evaluate moving to a Central Dispatch system for the county will soon have options to present to the Board of Commissioners.

4. The money received from the state for the County Misdemeanant Fund has been received and will be requested to appropriate for "Building Repairs".

Thomas Polk of Wabash Electric Information Technologies presented hardware specs and estimates for a new Tax Billing System as well as the GIS system project for Wabash County. He recommends replacing 6 computers in the County and Noble Township offices with new more powerful computers to accommodate GIS. The existing computers will be used as needed throughout the courthouse including Public Access areas for inquiry. A new server will be needed for the GIS system as well as additional printers and scanners as needed for not only the Auditor-Treasurer-Surveyor offices but the Assessors offices and the Planning Commission office. The additional hardware needed for the projects should cost under the \$50,000 approved in August by Council from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Commissioners gave their approval to move forward with quotes from various suppliers and companies for the purchases as needed. It was decided to purchase the items as needed while GIS is being developed and implemented over a one year period rather than all at once.

Wabash County officials: Treasurer LuAnn Layman, Surveyor Cheri Slee and Auditor Jane Ridgeway presented the Commissioners with* quotes and recommendations for the computer software upgrade needed for a new Tax Billing System. In order to be compliant with the state mandates for an 18 digit parcel number and comparative Tax Statements, the old Manatron-Atek/VAX system that has been in use in the courthouse offices since 1987 must be replaced with newer technology. In addition, Manatron has stated that they will not be supporting or maintaining the old VAX software or hardware systems after December 31, 2006. This will be Phase Two of the IT upgrades in the courthouse planned for this year. In Phase One of upgrading the financial system, ten new computers and three printers were installed in the offices involved as well as a new IT room, wiring and a new server which will also house this new system. Last fall the Commissioners contracted with Wabash Electric Information Technologies as IT consultants to plan and design the computer upgrades needed. The officials researched various companies offering Tax Billing systems in Indiana and invited four different companies to demonstrate their systems here at the courthouse as well as traveling to various counties to observe the different systems in place and talk with the officials and employees about the systems they have. Following the research and after receiving comparative quotes it is the recommendation of the officials involved to contract with Manatron for their MVP Tax system. They discussed with the Commissioners the hardware specs and costs as well as the training schedules in order to send the 2006 pay 2007 Property Tax statements from a new system in the spring. Following discussion, the Commissioners approved to proceed to the Wabash County Council for funding for the Manatron MVP Tax system. Estimates include Software \$78,000; Support \$27,660; Third

Party Software \$5240; Professional Services \$7500. and Consultant Training of \$20,000 for the conversion as well as approximately \$11,600 for additional computers, scanners and printers needed for a total request of \$150,000 to be requested from the County General Fund. This approval was made on a motion by Templin, second by Dawes and a 3-0 vote of the Board.

County Recorder Nancy Gribben asked the Commissioners for permission to request an Additional Appropriation of \$2765 for rebinding of some of her books. This will be paid from the Recorder's Record Perpetuation Fund if approved by the Council. Templin moved to approve taking the request to the Council, seconded by Dawes and approved by a 3-0 vote. Gribben also requested permission to have a locksmith replace a lock on one of her doors.

Lori Draper, Clerk of Circuit and Superior Courts, reported on the Microvote election machines which are now set up and ready for the November Election. By Microvote "loaning" Wabash County additional machines her office will be able to tally and report the votes on only one system. She stated that these refurbished machines may be available for purchase and would be less expensive than the \$90,000 she requested in her 2007 budget. Draper also requested permission to purchase an additional four-drawer locking cabinet for her office from her Clerk's Incentive Fund for a cost of \$2399. Templin moved to approve the purchase, seconded by Dawes and passed by a 3-0 vote. In addition Draper offered to move the shredder purchased last year from the Courthouse switchboard area to her break room after the first of the year and was told her could send old obsolete office equipment to the old jail for storage until the next auction of surplus county property. She also requested and received permission for herself and one deputy to attend the Election conference in Indianapolis in December at a cost of \$100 registration each.

Emergency Management Director Bob Brown reminded the Board of a Homeland Security exercise scheduled for October 19th in which Wabash and Miami Counties will be involved.

Dallas Duggin, Chief Probation Officer, asked the Commissioners for their support in requesting an Additional Appropriation from the Council to purchase a computerized Accounting System for his department from his Probation User Fees fund. The cost for the software and training are approximately \$2300. Templin moved to approve the purchase; his motion was seconded by Dawes and passed by a 3-0 vote.

The Board of Commissioners then reviewed a contract with Atlas Industries of Wabash with the Commissioners' Attorney Tom Mattern. The contract was prepared for the advertised repairs of the Courthouse roof and based on the

quotes received. Following discussion Commissioner President Brian Hauptert signed the contract for the Board.

In other business the Commissioners were informed by the Auditor of a (9/27) phone message from Jim Hall of Urbana as a follow-up to his letter sent to them. A (9/25) request from David Strickler of LECG.com to purchase Wabash County property tax information and a (9/28) phone call from Judge McCallen informing of an upcoming jury trial and seeking the Board's support of his request to the Council for needed for additional appropriation funding for Petit Juror fees.

The Board also reviewed:

- 1) Custodian D. Smith hours for the pay period ended September 30th.
- 2) Notice of Public Hearing before the Board of Zoning Appeals the City of Wabash concerning a variance request from Sycamore Chippewa Group, LLC for 2945 W Division Rd (former Hoffman Nursery)
- 3) Invitation to Pathfinder Services Inc.'s Annual Recognition Dinner on November 4, 2006

No other business, the meeting recessed. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10th (due to a County Holiday on the 9th) at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners Meeting Room – second floor of the Courthouse.

*Typos or corrections amended with approval of minutes October 10, 2006.