

March 3, 2014

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, March 3, 2014. Chairman Scott E Givens called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all three members present: Givens, Brian K Hauptert and Barry J Eppley. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Linda Conrad. The minutes of the February 24, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

John Martin, County Highway Superintendent submitted a utility permit request from NIPSCO to install an above ground regulator station and run 1,420 foot of 4" gas line along the south side of 800 N from State Road 13 to just west of 1359 W. Commissioners approved.

Bob Land, Wabash County Sheriff reported the Wabash County Jail currently has 78 inmates with 13 inmates at the Miami County Jail. Last week, there were eight transports and 28 bookings. The peak population was 78.

Keith Walters, EMA Director: Present with no report.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator: Present with no report.

Linda Conrad, Auditor:

1. Submitted the accounts payable claims and allowances for March 3, 2014. Commissioners approved.
2. Presented an IDEM notice – PaperWorks Industries, Inc. – for air quality renewal.
3. Presented proposed Ordinance 2014-5 to vacate Walnut Street and alleys in the original plat of Mount Vernon, IN. Hauptert made a motion to approve the ordinance. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Terry Burnworth, President of Pyramid Architecture/Engineering presented a follow-up presentation regarding the old jail building feasible study which included the following options and costs:

- Restore building as a museum - \$1,200,000 (minimum)
- Restore and update building for county use - \$845,000.
- Restore and update building for resale - \$650,000.
- Sell building "as is" - \$14,000 land value only
- Remove building and provide county parking - \$147,000 (12 spaces).

Patrick Sullivan, Wabash Marketplace stated that the Wabash Historical Preservation Commission is requesting that the commissioners wait a year before making any decisions as to what to do with the building. They would like to have time to exhaust all avenues before the building is torn down. They are prepared to put the building on the top ten endangered historical buildings in Indiana which may help locate a potential buyer who would restore and use the building.

Todd Zeiger, Indiana Landmarks stated his organization is prepared to work with the Historical Preservation Commission, Wabash County and the city to form a task force to promote the building to potential investors. Such investors may have an interest in restoring and using the building, which may result in no county dollars be spent on the structure. The commissioners stated they will wait to make any decision but would like to receive quarterly updates, beginning June 1, on the progress of the task force.

With no other business to come before the Board of Commissioners the meeting was adjourned. The Commissioners will meet on Monday, March 10, 2014 in the Commissioners' room on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse.

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Also present: Marcie Shepherd, Deputy Auditor; Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Nick Van Heest; Lisa Gilman, Redemption Development, Michael Beauchamp, Wabash Historical Preservation Commission, Community Corrections Director Jeff Hobson and Brett Wyatt.