

January 24, 2022

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, January 24, 2022. Commissioner Barry J. Eppley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all three commissioners present: Eppley, Jeff D. Dawes and Brian K. Hauptert. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the January 18, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Dawes made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Christine Flohr, Visit Wabash County, gave a presentation on what Visit Wabash County is doing to attract visitors from all over the country. As of 2019, they saw tourism spending reach \$59 million and continue to grow by the millions each year. Airbnb-style stays have increased in Wabash County. They have doubled Trolley Tours for 2022 because they sell out within two days. All of that is in addition to selling conventions, meetings, private tours and putting together an 82-page Visitors Guide. Justin Gillespie, owner of 950 Speakeasy and an Airbnb in Lagro, spoke in support of the efforts of Visit Wabash County to help businesses bring additional people into the county. Beth Gillespie with the Canal Foundation of Lagro, stated Visit Wabash County has helped Lagro with the Trolley Tours and signage. Jennifer Bailey, owner of the Carriage House and The Sanctuary of Wabash, said Flohr helped get her started two years ago with magazine spreads. Deb Connor with Rustic Barn at Hopewell, said Visit Wabash County helped get the word out; they are booked for the entire summer. Flohr also helped setup and sell tickets for Bluegrass at Hopewell in July 2021. Adam Stakeman, Board President of Visit Wabash County, said the outreach is really different than when he moved here 16 years ago and it's attracted visitors from the larger cities. Eppley thanked everyone who came and expressed their support of Visit Wabash County.

Beverly Ferry, CEO Living Well in Wabash County CoA, presented a 4th quarter reimbursement claim for the 5311 Transit Grant in the amount of \$98,774. Ferry explained the number of riders is down but thanked the county for its continued support of the program. Dawes made a motion to approve the claim. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent, presented:

1. A request to apply for the 2022-1 Community Crossings Matching Grant along with a financial commitment letter. Hauptert made a motion to approve the application and commitment up to \$168,430.22 in matching funds. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Utility permit for BSM Communication to replace conduit at 72 W Lakeside Drive. Hauptert made a motion to approve the permit. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff, stated the jail currently has 85 inmates, with 20 additional being housed in the Miami County Jail, 9 in the Fulton County Jail and 31 in the Tipton County Jail. Last week there were 20 book-ins and 5 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 95. The total inmate count was 146. Baker also presented an Interlocal Agreement with Fulton County. Baker said Steve Downs had reviewed the agreement. Hauptert made a motion to approve the agreement. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Keith Walters, County EMA Director, was present with nothing to report.

Steve Downs, County Attorney, was present with nothing to report.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented:

1. The commissioners' (live) certificate sale services addendum to the SRI master service contract for signatures. SRI Inc. conducts the tax and certificate sales for the county. The certificate sale will be held Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 10 a.m. in the courthouse meeting room. Hauptert made a motion to approve the addendum. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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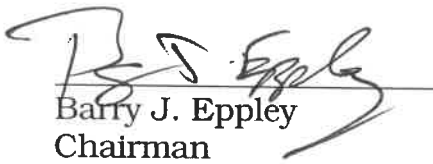
2. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 1/24/2022.
Dawes made a motion to approve all claims. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Eppley asked if there were any ADA or Title VI concerns. None were heard.

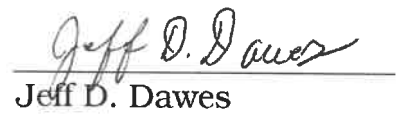
With no other public comment or other business to come before the Board of Commissioners, the meeting was adjourned. The commissioners will next meet on Monday, January 31, 2022.


Also present: *In person*: Chief Deputy Shelly Baucco, Eric Walsh and Chief Probation Officer Brian Swihart. *Via Zoom*: Kandy Barker, Joseph Slacian, Don Jervis, Rob Burgess and Melanie Penn.

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Barry J. Eppley
Chairman


Brian K. Hauptert
Vice-Chairman


Jeff D. Dawes

Attest: 
Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor