

**June 13, 2022**

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, June 13, 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 June 6, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Hauptert made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Laura Rager, Director, North Manchester Center for History gave an update on the services and educational opportunities provided over the past year. One new goal this year is to create an outdoor gathering space that will encourage people to visit the museum as well as bring them into the central business district. Rager closed with a request for support in the amount of \$15,000 for 2023.

Geoff Schortgen, Purdue Extension Director, requested permission to apply for a grant to install water fill stations in the county courthouse. Schortgen said he and Mindy Mayes were working with Jen Rankin at the Wabash County Solid Waste Management District to obtain funding to install these stations to reduce the use of plastic bottles. The commissioners granted permission to apply for the grant. Schortgen also requested a 4-H county budget allocation of \$5,000 for the 2023.

Brian Swihart, Chief Probation Officer, requested permission to apply for an Advance 2023 Pretrial Services Grant for \$20,000. The commissioners gave permission to apply.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent, presented a utility permit from Frontier Communications to restore service to 870 N 200 W. 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 90 inmates with 42 additional being housed in the Miami County Jail, 12 in the Fulton County Jail and 25 in the Tipton County Jail. Last week there were 32 book-ins and 7 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 90. The total inmate count was 160. Baker also requested permission to trade a 2017 Ford SUV with a blown motor to Copsgear for \$3,500 in equipment. Hauptert made a motion to approve the trade. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Steve Downs, County Attorney, stated he is reviewing a proposal from Baker Tilly. Dawes made a motion to take the proposal under advisement until more details are known. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor, presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 6/13/2022. Hauptert made a motion to approve all claims. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Operating Levy distribution for \$1,476,907.51 to be disbursed to the county and other taxing units. Hauptert made a motion to approve the distribution. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Eppley reported they would like the county council to continue to participate in the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership.

Jamie Francis, Tosha Swanson and Tim Sisco reported that from August 2021 to last night 9 accidents have occurred at the intersection of 700 W and 200 N. Francis asked what is the process to get a 4-way stop and/or flashing lights around the stop signs currently on 200 N. Swanson also requested the installation of a guard rail in front of her house. The commissions informed them

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that they would need to have an engineer conduct a study prior to making any changes to the traffic pattern. Hauptert said they have an on-call engineer and will ask Wyatt to contact that firm to ask that a study be completed. Francis requested, while they are waiting, could the county go ahead and install stop signs with flashing lights. Hauptert said yes they can commit to the installation of the lighted stop signs.

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, June 20, 2022.

Also present *in person*: Shelly Baucco and Jim Dils. *Via Zoom*: Rob Burgess, Melanie Penn, Kandy Barker and Don Jervis.

**WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Barry J. Eppley  
Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian K. Hauptert  
Vice-Chairman

  
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Jeff D. Dawes

Attest:   
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Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor