

October 31, 2022

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, October 31, 2022. Commissioner Barry J. Eppley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with Eppley and Jeff D. Dawes present. Brian K. Hauptert was absent. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the October 24, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Dawes made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0 vote.

Beverly Ferry, CEO of Living Well in Wabash County CoA, presented the third quarter reimbursement claims for the 5311 Transit Grant in the amounts of \$75,756 and \$20,650. Dawes made a motion to approve the claims. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0 vote.

Ferry explained that car companies have canceled all government contracts for new vehicle purchases for 2023 and possibly 2024. Ferry stated she submitted a plan to INDOT, which was approved, to begin the Green Line this will be a mini-route starting with Rock City Lofts, Senior Town and Meadowbrook Apartments. The bus will run 2½ days a week to include Kroger, Dollar General and Walmart as the main destinations.

Eppley stated the Transit Advisory Council met last Wednesday to discuss operations. Eppley and Ferry will meet later today to conduct a financial review.

Eppley stated the commissioners have signed an agreement to purchase a property at 808 Manchester Avenue for \$250,000. This agreement is contingent upon meeting all the Indiana statutory requirements and approval by the Wabash County Council. Dawes made a motion to approve the purchase. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0 vote.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent;

1. Requested December 12, 2022 as the opening date for the annual county highway bids. Advertisements will be submitted for supplies, materials and equipment rental to be used during 2023. The bids must be submitted to the auditor's office on or before 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 12, 2022. The bids will be opened at 9:00 a.m. by the Board of Commissioners.
2. Task order #11 from United Consulting in the amount of \$5,000 to develop budget fees and construction cost estimates for the rehabilitation Bridge #18 (Roann Covered Bridge). Dawes made a motion to approve. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0 vote.

Wabash County Sheriff Ryan Baker stated the jail currently has 95 inmates with 46 additional being housed in the Miami County Jail, 16 in the Fulton County Jail and 33 in the Tipton County Jail. Last week there were 19 book-ins and 6 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 98. The total inmate count was 188.

Keith Walters, County EMA Director, requested permission to apply for the State Hazard Mitigation Plan grant when it becomes available. The state would like a letter indicating the county will be applying and commit to 25% in-kind-donation.

Steve Downs, County Attorney presented:

1. A petition to vacate portions of three county roads: Old Slocum Trail (from 600 W to 700 W); 700 W (from 700 S to 800 S); and 800 S (from 650 W to 700 W). Downs wanted it noted that the auditor has received the information and a public hearing is set for December 12, 2022.
2. Bridge 144, which was taken under advisement (July 12, 2021) was discussed briefly.

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3. He has been in contact with Nexterra Energy, who is interested in developing a solar project in southern part of the county. The county will need to create a reimbursement agreement with Nexterra for expenses involved in evaluating and processing applications for this project, which most likely will not begin until 2023. The county will need to look into getting a financial advisor, but need to have all commissioners present to move forward, due to Eppley having an interest in the project. Downs will contact BakerTilly for an engagement letter to present to the board.
4. Amanda Prater has paid all the expenses on the property on 700 W and the deed is ready to be approved by the commissioners. Dawes made a motion to approve and sign the deed. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0 vote.
5. A news release has been circulating to have counties broadband ready. Downs requested permission to proceed in drafting a resolution for the broadband ready status for the county. The commissioners agreed.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor, presented:

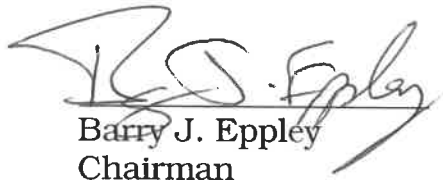
1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 10/31/2022. Dawes made a motion to approve the claims and allowances as presented. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0 vote.
2. An amendment to the Jail Bond request for Payment #13 for \$1,871,930.64 to be dispersed. It needed to be changed to \$1,873,430.64. Dawes made a motion to approve the request. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0 vote.
3. Phase 4 advertisement for the Jail project. Pre-bid meetings will be held at the building site on November 10 & 17, 2022 at 2 p.m. Bids will be opened by the commissioners on December 5, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

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, November 7, 2022.

Also present *in person*: Shelly Baucco, Jim Dils and Brian Swihart; *via Zoom*: Melanie Penn, Don Jervis and Kandy Barker.

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Barry J. Eppley
Chairman


Brian K. Hauptert
Vice-Chairman


Jeff D. Dawes

Attest: 
Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor