

MARCH 15, 2010

Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, March 15, 2010. Chairman Barry J. Eppley called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present: Eppley, Brian K. Haupert and Scott E. Givens. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Auditor Jane Ridgeway. The minutes of the March 8, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Givens made a motion to approve as written; his motion was seconded by Haupert and passed with a 3-0 vote.

Phil Amones, County Highway Superintendent:

1. Presented a request from Verizon North, Inc to bury cable at CR 50 N east of 500 W. Commissioners unanimously approved.
2. Presented the revised INDOT contract for the bridge inspection. Commissioners unanimously approved and signed.
3. Requested April 12th at 10:00 A.M. as the date to receive salt bids. Commissioners unanimously approved.

Bob Brown, EMA Director:

1. Presented the E-911 Ordinance. Brown stated it may need to be revised regarding setting up a department. County Attorney Steve Downs stated he would review the Ordinance.
2. Stated that the CodeRED system will be tested on Tuesday at approximately 10:00 A.M. EMA has six (6) phone lines available if questions are received regarding the CodeRED test.
3. Stated there will be two (2) tornado tests on Wednesday. The first test will be between 10:00 - 10:30 A.M. and the second between 7:00 - 7:30 P.M.

Steve Downs, County Attorney, contacted INDOT and Norfolk Southern concerning Cause No DOT-RR-1993 issued by INDOT Rail Office on June 4, 2008 regarding the approval by the State allowing Wabash County to not place crossing signals at 800 N east of SR 13. This approval removed the \$50,000 grant that Wabash County had received for the project. NS had submitted an invoice totaling \$9,515 to Wabash County for preliminary engineering work on this project, but in September of 2009 NS informed Auditor Ridgeway the invoice was cancelled. NS requested the State reinstate the grant so that they could receive reimbursement for costs on this project. INDOT stated payment to NS would be an allowed expense under the original \$50,000 grant for this project. Downs stated he would contact the INDOT attorney to verify and re-apply for the grant. Commissioners unanimously approved.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator:

1. Discussed the replacement of six (6) red, white and blue nylon swags for the area above the doorways on the exterior of the courthouse. Dils presented two (2) bids: Advertising Specialties

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- totaling \$222 and Tidmore Flags totaling \$225. Auditor Ridgeway stated this would be paid from the Courthouse Complex Supplies Fund. Hauptert made a motion to approve the purchase of the six (6) swags from Advertising Specialties totaling \$222; his motion was seconded by Givens and passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Stated Tom Payne, Border Energy, who spoke with Commissioners last week regarding natural gas purchase options, has submitted customer references. Commissioners will take under advisement.
 3. Stated the Perry Corporation will begin obtaining information this week for a second opinion on Wabash County's document printing needs. All Department Heads will be informed of the data collection. The final report is scheduled to be submitted to Commissioners in May.
 4. Stated employees were informed last week of the 2% increase in the health plan costs effective April 1st.

Mike Howard, Plan Commissioner Director:

1. Requested permission to purchase a four (4) drawer file cabinet. Givens stated there are several extra cabinets available in the courthouse and asked Howard to look over the cabinets on hand.
2. Stated the Plan Commission has considered rewriting the Wabash County Ordinance. Prior to this task, a comprehensive plan for the county must be written. The Plan Commission would like to work with a consultant on this process. Commissioners requested Howard contact the City of Wabash to discuss the idea of a joint effort on consulting work. Attorney Downs stated there has also been discussion on amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that a consultant could address as well.

Auditor Jane Ridgeway:

1. Reminded of the pending AT&T invoice totaling \$18,000 for the moving of utilities due to the 800 N project. Downs stated he would contact Steve Jones, United Consulting, to clarify if AT&T signed a no payment agreement on this project or if AT&T had this in the original agreement. Downs stated he will investigate possible payment by POET as part of the 800 N project. Commissioners requested Downs inquire if this cost could be paid from the \$50,000 grant on the 800 N project for which Downs is reapplying.
2. Presented Accounts Payable Claims & Allowance Docket for payment 3-15-10. Hauptert made a motion to approve all claims except the jail study invoice from H. J. Umbaugh & Associates; his motion was seconded by Givens and passed with a 3-0 vote.
3. Presented the EDG Incentive Agreement. Commissioners reviewed and approved.

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4. Presented a Court Order for payment of witness fees totaling \$1,650. Commissioners approve.
5. Presented update on claims from the Wabash Plain Dealer for publications of the 2009 tax sale properties: (the 1st print for \$1,580.42 has been paid); 2nd print \$1,409.09 and 3rd print \$1,297.20 were disputed and appealed as she felt The Wabash Plain Dealer's cost was excessive. Ridgeway stated the News Journal charged under \$1,400 for all three (3) publications. The Wabash Plain Dealer held a final appeal review last week with the advertising director and the publisher and they feel the charges were appropriate. Ridgeway stated there was a question regarding tabulation set-up charges as opposed to counting the publication as one (1) ad placed three (3) separate times. Ridgeway stated she had discussed editing the ad each week to remove properties that were no longer available for tax sale, but the Plain Dealer had never quoted her a set fee for the three separate prints. After discussing the disputed claim, Givens made a motion to approve payment of the \$1,409.09 and the \$1,297.20 to the Wabash Plain Dealer; his motion was seconded by Hauptert and passed 3-0.
6. Presented a request to reappoint Stuart A. Hawley to the Alcoholic Beverage Board. Hauptert made a motion to reappoint Stuart A. Hawley to the Alcoholic Beverage Board; his motion was seconded by Givens and passed by a 3-0 vote.
7. Presented a request for a Commissioner Representative to the District III-A Board. Hauptert volunteered to serve on the District III-A Board. Givens made a motion to appoint Hauptert to the District III-A Board; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed with a 2-0 vote.
8. Property Tax Billing Abstract for 2009 pay 2010 was approved by the state on Friday. Darren Bates of DataPitStop helped to correct calculation problems by Manatron on the over 65 circuit breaker. Both Manatron and the DLGF were appreciative of his efforts. Ridgeway stated the printing process will be more extensive this year. It will include a Tax Statement Comparison and a TS1-A form/statement informing homestead holders of a new requirement by the State. The State is creating a database to help prevent Homestead fraud. Homestead exemption holders will need to give the last five (5) digits of their social security numbers and the last five (5) digits of their Indiana State Driver's License (Photo ID). Ridgeway stated we are waiting on a required update from Manatron before moving forward on the printing.
9. Presented the Council packets for the March 22, 2010 meeting for Commissioners to review.

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The Commissioners reviewed and approved the following items:

Monthly Report – Clerk of the Circuit Court – February, 2010

County Treasurer’s Monthly Report – February, 2010

County Auditor’s Monthly Financial Report – February, 2010

IDEM – Receipt of Air Permit Application – Living Essentials LLC

IDEM – Review Request for Operating Permit – Wabash Alloys LLC

Commissioners met with the Drainage Board at 10:00 A.M and reconvened at 11:00 A.M. where Commissioners met with Bill Konyha, President and CEO of the Economic Development Group of Wabash County, to discuss the arrival of the Novae Corporation, the Sure-Trac Trailer Division, which has purchased the former Dexter Axle building on SR 114 E in North Manchester. Commissioners approved a \$200,000 CEDIT grant to assist in the development of Novae in Wabash County. The Town of North Manchester also contributed a CEDIT grant totaling \$200,000 and the City of Wabash: \$10,000 in addition to the State’s grants made available.

Commissioners met with Wabash County Sheriff Leroy Striker to discuss the replacement of an officer at the Sheriff’s Department. Deputy Jeff Clark left the department February 20th for a position in Kosciusko County. Striker had hoped to fill the position after the academy class in March. On March 1, 2010, Commissioners initiated a hiring freeze for all employees funded by the Wabash County Government. Commissioners requested that Striker not hire a replacement until the expected revenue forecast for 2011 is reviewed at budget time.

No other business, the meeting recessed. Commissioners will meet in regular session on Monday, March 22, 2010 in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse at 9:00 A.M.

County Council will meet in regular session on Monday, March 22, 2010 in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse at 5:00 P.M.

*Approved as presented on March 22, 2010