August 12, 2019

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, August 12, 2019. Chairman Barry J. Eppley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioners' present: Eppley, Brian K. Haupert, and Jeff D. Dawes. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the August 5, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Haupert made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Rick Anderson, Business Development Director with Johnson-Melloh requested permission to perform an audit of the county's energy usage. It could be used to help determine if there are ways his firm could help reduce energy costs, including the possibility of using solar. Anderson would need a release from the county in order to request such information from the gas and electric companies. The commissioners agreed to the audit.

John Martin, County Highway Superintendent was present with nothing to report.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff reported the Wabash County Jail currently has 107 inmates with 43 inmates housed in the Miami County Jail and 3 in the Noble County Jail. Last week there were 21 book-ins and 8 transports to other facilities with a peak population of 112. The total prisoner count was 156.

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

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director:
1. Stated a fan motor has failed on the courthouse cooling tower. (It has two fans.) A new motor has been ordered because both fans are needed during periods of high temperatures. Dawes made a motion to approve the request. Haupert seconded the motion: it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Requested permission to replace a printer in the parcel maintenance office. A quote from Intrasect Technologies was obtained for $349.99. Since there is no budget to cover this expense, Dils asked the commissioners to cover the cost. Dawes made a motion to approve the request to be paid out of Cum Cap. Haupert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor was present with nothing to report.

Ken Coffelt stated he recently purchased a house in Urbana adjacent to the Church of Grace United Methodist (Urban Yoke Parish). Last week the county highway department arrived to improve the alley between his home and the church. He was under the impression the alley was closed. He stated it is very close to his property and feels it is not practical for it to be a working alley and that he was not notified that improvements were approved. Eppley stated it is a public right-of-way and an improvement request came from the church in February to re-stone the alley. Eppley added it is not the practice of the county to notify property owners when the county is repairing an established road or alley.

Eppley stated that with these issues coming to light, the request for alley repairs needs to be revisited before any improvements occur.

Kathy Carter-Lower, Deputy Registrar/Office Manager, Wabash County Health Department requested permission to apply for an account with MicroDAQ, which supplies thermometers for the refrigerators which store vaccines. Year-to-date, over $900 has been spent on batteries for these thermometers. They would like to have an account set-up instead of being charged to a credit card. Lower asked if the county or the health department should be completing the application. The commissioners stated it should be in the name of the commissioners. Haupert made a motion for the commissioners to complete the application for credit. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

With no public comment or other business to come before the Board of Commissioners the meeting was adjourned. The commissioners will next meet on Monday, August 19, 2019.

Also present: First Deputy Auditor Shelly Baucco, Amanda Lawrence, Jim Christie, Central Dispatch Director Sandy Beeks, Greg Harnish, Eric Kirtland and Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Rob Burgess.