

October 7, 2019

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, October 7, 2019. Chairman Barry J. Eppley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioners' present: Eppley, Brian K. Hauptert, and Jeff D. Dawes. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the September 30, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Hauptert made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

John Martin, County Highway Superintendent presented an agreement with United Consulting for on-call engineering services. There is no cost associated with signing this agreement. Hauptert made a motion to approve the contract. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

The commissioners presented John Martin with a certificate of appreciation for his 37 years of service with Wabash County. Martin will retire on October 11th.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff reported the Wabash County Jail currently has 109 inmates with 53 inmates housed in the Miami County Jail, 14 in the Elkhart County Jail and 1 in the Adams County Jail. Last week there were 32 book-ins and 10 transports to other facilities with a peak population of 113. The total prisoner count was 179.

Baker requested permission to order four new vehicles for 2020. It takes approximately 12 weeks to get a vehicle full equipped once it has been ordered. Dawes made a motion to approve the request. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Keith Walters, EMA Director stated last week he requested permission to apply for the Homeland Security EMA Performance Competitive Grant, to purchase a new vehicle. After discussions with the State, it was discovered that this grant cannot be used to purchase a vehicle. Walters stated he will not be pursuing that grant.

Mark Frantz, County Attorney representative was present with nothing to report.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director was present with nothing to report.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented the accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 10/07/2019. The commissioners approved all claims.

In response to a review item: INDOT Notice of project advancement – US 24 at County Road 300 E/Lagro Servia Road. Eppley stated the commissioners are disappointed that this project appears to be moving forward. From all of the feedback each commissioner received, as well as at the public hearings, no one was in favor of the proposed modification to the intersection and believe it will be less safe than the current design. The commissioners believe enhanced signage

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would be more appropriate than revamping the intersection to include a “J” turn. They will try to lobby and make their displeasure known. Hauptert stated at the town hall meetings no one was in favor of the project going ahead, which means they (INDOT) clearly are not listening to the people at the local level. Dawes stated his complete disappointment in the project going through when clearly it is not what the people want. They plan to contact Senator Andy Zay and Representative Dave Wolkins to see if anything else can be done.

Suzie Lewis, Wabash County Coroner requested permission to purchase a walk-in cooler for the county morgue. Currently there is one cooler but an additional one is needed. Two quotes were presented with the lowest being from CoolBot for \$5,500. Lewis stated a transfer will need to occur to be able to pay for the cooler. Hauptert made a motion to approve the quote from CoolBot. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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 Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

Also present: First Deputy Auditor Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Central Dispatch Director Sandy Beeks and Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Rob Burgess.