

JANUARY 3, 2007

Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Wednesday, January 3, 2007. Auditor Jane Ridgeway called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. She welcomed the newly elected Commissioner Scott Givens. Ridgeway opened the floor for nominations for the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the year 2007. Commissioner Brian Hauptert motioned to nominate Commissioner Lester Templin as Chairman. It was seconded by Givens and approved with a 3-0 vote. Templin then took control of the meeting Brian Hauptert was elected to serve as Vice Chairman on a motion by Templin, a second by Givens and a 3-0 vote. Hauptert made a motion to approve the minutes as written for the December 18, 2006 meeting. It was seconded by Templin and approved with a 2-0 vote. Hauptert then moved to approve the minutes for the December 29, 2006 claims approval as written. This motion was seconded by Templin and approved with a 2-0 vote.

Larry Rice, Highway Department Supervisor, reported the following item:

1. Due to high water, Co. Rd. 1400 is closed.
2. A Request submitted by Don Roser to Road Cut 3,235 feet W of 600E on 350S to install a tile. Magenica Tile Co. will be completing the work. The maintenance fee will be \$100.00. Hauptert made a motion to approve maintenance fee. It was seconded by Givens and approved with a 3-0vote.

Leroy Striker, Wabash County Sheriff, reported:

1. Last weeks daily population at the County Jail was 94.4. Today's count was 96 with 2 pending transfer for DOC.
2. A study/assessment of the County Jail is currently in progress. Striker stated the trend for incarcerations is going down. There were 1,282 bookings recorded in 2006.
3. The small remodeling project at the County Jail has been beneficial for the jail situation.
4. Striker informed Commissioners and Auditor Jane Ridgeway of a domesticated deer, pet, that had been killed by two dogs. They are investigating for the owner of the dogs. This issue would formerly have been dealt with by using the Township Assessor Dog Tax monies. Now, since the State Dog Fund laws have been changed, Ridgeway and the Sheriff will work together to determine whether or how much the owner of the domesticated deer is to be reimbursed for his loss and present their findings to the Board.
5. Striker also informed the Commissioners of two changes to the Inmate medical benefits:
 - a. Medical personnel available to inmates had been six (6) hours, now it is twelve (12) hours per week of availability.

b. There is an increase for inmates with possible contagious diseases such as HIV or Hepatitis C to \$1,500.00 per inmate to assist with medical treatments. Striker stated that currently the increased benefits come at no extra cost to the county, but it is indicated in the contract with HPL that a cost of living increase could occur at a later time if HPL deems it necessary. Commissioners accepted and signed the updated inmate medical benefit change form.

Commissioners relayed a question from a concerned citizen about problems with locks on cell doors at the Jail. Striker stated to his knowledge there are no problems with any doors/cells that would be a safety or security concern. The inmates are classified as to security and locking procedures very with the classified areas.

Sandy Beeks, 911 Coordinator, did not attend meeting but, Sheriff Striker relayed from Beeks information concerning the 911 program:

1. A new state requirement for EMD* trained dispatchers had been set to start January 1, 2007. It has been delayed until the fall of 2007.
2. Striker stated there are two dispatchers on first and second shift and one (1) out of every four (4) days there are two (2) dispatchers on third shift.
3. There are 6 ½ dispatchers currently. The city has six (6) dispatchers and if the Central Dispatch is implemented there would be at least a total of eleven (11) dispatchers needed.
4. Officers investigated 840 calls received last year. Striker stated the numbers are defiantly going up. Case reports and all numbers are to be given to Bob Brown, EMA director, as he is evaluating and reviewing information as the possibility of a Central Dispatch is studied.

Tom Mattern, Commissioners' Attorney gave an update on the road damage hearing. Due to an address issue, the defendant will need to be served a second time and a hearing will be held at a later date. Mattern also informed Commissioners he would like to hold an Executive Session to review a Tort Claim. A date was set for January 8, 2007 at 8:45 A.M. to meet in Executive Session.

Lori Draper, Clerk of the Courts, informed Commissioners she had to purchase a new fax machine as an emergency purchase. Draper and Auditor Jane Ridgeway discussed changes to the automated phone systems with the Commissioners. Ridgeway requested permission to inquire with the Catholic Charities Senior Aides Program, of Ft. Wayne, to apply for possible assistance to reinstate operators, but at no extra cost to Wabash County. Commissioners agreed this would be acceptable if possible. Currently Ridgeway and the Sheriff each have Senior Aides and find the program very beneficial to help with work load and budget constraints.

Bob Brown, EMA Director, reported the following items:

1. The installation of the impact security doors at the Judicial Center is progressing well.
2. The Mitigation Grant is 75% - 25% Local match and can be data and research.
3. Training Requirements are tied to reimbursement of the EMA Director Salary this year.
4. At the end of March, Brown and Keith Walters, Public Health Coordinator, are planning to attend an instructors training course.
5. There was a problem with the generator at Solid Waste Plant. Brown wanted to know about the service agreement. Brown stated he and the Sheriff would like all four (4) generators to be on one service agreement. Templin stated it would be a good idea to have a log documenting when the generators are worked on and what has been done.
6. Brown also discussed installing security lights at the new entrance of the Judicial Center.

Scott Givens agreed to serve as the Commissioners appointment to the Plan Commission. Hauptert made a motion to appoint Givens to the Plan Commission. It was seconded by Templin and approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners reviewed the following items:

1. Wabash County Tourism Commission Minutes
2. NITA Foundation letter
3. Tort Claim Notice from John Barshney and Mary Ann Henderson.
4. Notice of Filing –Appeal Unemployment Insurance—Sheriff Department
5. IDEM Notice of Approval Decision for Wabash Alloys
6. Prosecuting Attorney’s Employee Handbook—DENIED by Commissioners at present time
7. City of Wabash: Order to Remove Unsafe Building—490 Ferry Street
8. An informational letter from DNR—FHA—Plans and Specs—Bridge #505—Ferry Street Bridge to United Consulting-- given to Larry Rice
9. Cancelled Certificate of Liability Insurance for Kellam Excavating.
10. Letter from Indiana Bond Bank regarding Advance funding and Midyear programs

Commissioners reviewed and approved the following items:

1. City of Wabash: Approved EMS Services Agreement extension—Commissioners signed agreement
2. Scarce-Rudisel: Proposals (a) Courthouse Fascia Repair & Replacement—Commissioners signed proposal. (b) Courthouse Master Plan—Commissioners declined proposal at this time
3. Atlas Building Services Payment Application #3—Courthouse Roof Project—Commissioners approved and signed.
4. Lafayette Life Insurance—Amendment #5 to Group Term Life Policy—Commissioners signed Amendment.

5. Custodian Dick Smith hours for December 10-23, 2006

No other Business, the meeting recessed. Commissioners will meet again on Monday, January 8, 2007 at 9:00 AM on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse following an Executive Session at 8:45 AM.

* Amended in minutes of January 8, 2007.