

JANUARY 29, 2007

Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, January 29, 2007. Chairman Lester D. Templin called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present: Lester Templin, Brian Hauptert, and Scott Givens. Hauptert made a motion to approve minutes as written for the January 22, 2007 meeting. It was seconded by Givens and approved with a 3-0 vote.

Larry Rice, Highway Department Supervisor, reported:

1. A request from Verizon to bury cable on 700S at 2563W north across road to existing pedestal.
2. Bridge conference update. Rice stated Wabash County will have to inventory all bridges that go over Wabash County Roads, but the process will get no additional funding.
3. Rice stated they have until July 1, 2007 to take pictures of all bridges that have the new weight limit signs posted to be documented in the Wabash County Bridge Inventory Report.

Leroy Striker, Wabash County Sheriff, reported:

1. An average daily population last week in the jail of 86. Current population is 86 with 2 scheduled for transfer to DOC.
2. A minor mishap: an employee slid on ice while unloading supplies behind the jail and hit a parked car.
3. The quote to renew the Law Enforcement Liability Insurance has gone down. Last year the cost was over \$74,000.00, plus Tail coverage. This year the total cost would be \$61,387.77. Mike Beauchamp, of Beauchamp and McSpadden Insurance, stated an inspection team (of people from across the U.S.) reviewed the facility and was very impressed with the jail itself and the job that Sheriff Striker has done here in Wabash County. Beauchamp said he felt this had a great deal to do with the reduction of the yearly cost. Beauchamp also stated he felt this was a good and acceptable quote. Hauptert made a motion to accept the quote with ARCH through Burns & Wilcox. It was seconded by Givens and approved with a 3-0 vote.

Bob Brown, EMA Director, reported:

1. The new entrance on the Judicial Center is finished. Brown stated he needed the approval of the Commissioners to release the final payment. Brown also stated several people have commented on how well the doors are working out. Commissioners unanimously agreed to approve the release of the final payment.

2. A reimbursement to the County General Fund has been received from a Department of Homeland Security grant of \$11,250.00 for communications equipment purchased. \$250.00 will be encumbered to EMA appropriations for additional purchases.
3. Updated the board on locating the tornado siren at the Old State Highway Building.

Lori Draper, Clerk of the Courts, informed Commissioners she would like to purchase a laptop computer to be used to set the voting machines, which are stored in the Courthouse, for each election. Draper acquired a quote from CSI totaling \$1,500.00 for the laptop. Payment would come from the Clerk's Incentive Fund. Hauptert moved to approve purchase. It was seconded by Givens and approved with a 3-0 vote.

Tom Mattern, Commissioners Attorney, was present, but had nothing to report at this time.

Trula Frank, Wabash County Convention and Visitors Bureau, discussed amendments to the Innkeepers Tax Ordinance to set term limits for their nine (9) board members. Mattern, Commissioners Attorney, will work with Frank on any changes, wording, and advertising that needs to be done regarding the ordinance. The Commissioners will then review the ordinance as amended.

Marcia Short, Wabash resident, requested that an ordinance be adopted regarding the allotted amount of time an animal could be kept on a chain. Virginia Reahard, Animal Control Warden, stated this was a viable idea. The City of Marion has a similar existing ordinance that sets how long an animal can be tied within a twenty-four (24) hour period. Templin asked if resources and manpower existed to enforce such an ordinance. Reahard stated "How would we handle this? One step at a time." Reahard also stated, laws in Wabash County had become lax and some changes needed to be made. Reahard stated in the past catching roaming animals was a priority need. Now, with that under control in the county, there is more time to focus on the humane treatment of animals. Commissioners agreed to proceed with the idea, suggesting that the Animal Control Board would need to submit a revised ordinance for their consideration.

Sherry Hinds, USI Consultants/American Timberbridge, introduced herself to the Commissioners. Hinds filed a Statement of Qualifications with Rice, Highway Supervisor. Hinds also confirmed that Wabash County has 76 timber bridges.

Jay Harvey & Carol Sipes, of Strategic Health Plans, met with Commissioners and the Auditor to discuss the Group Health Insurance pre-renewal options. Open enrollment will begin March 1, 2007 for the April 1 renewal. More information will be presented to the Board next month.

The Commissioners reviewed the following items:

1. Letter from Judge R. McCallen III, Wabash Circuit Court, regarding the next steps for the organization of the Public Defender Board.
2. Certificate of Appointment to the County Health Board—Commissioners will review and act on an appointment at a later date.
3. Ordinance Regulating Food Establishments and B&Bs to be reviewed.
4. SRI—Surplus Property Liquidation Program for county surplus property.
5. Wabash County 2006 Annual Financial Report presented by the Auditor.

Commissioners reviewed and approved the following items:

1. Payroll Claim and Allowance Docket for Pay Period ended January 27, 2007.
2. Custodian D. Smith hours for Pay Period ended 1-20-07

No other Business, the meeting recessed. Commissioners also meet with Treasurer LuAnn Layman as the Board of Finance for their annual meeting. The Commissioners will meet again on Monday, February 5, 2007 on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse for their next regular meeting.