

JULY 9, 2007

The Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, July 9, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners: Meeting Room. President Les Templin called the meeting to order with all members present: Lester D. Templin, Scott E. Givens and Brian K. Hauptert. The minutes from the July 2, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Givens clarified his intent to “approve the purchase” of floor mats for the Health Department. Hauptert moved to approve the minutes with that addition; his motion was seconded by Givens and approved by a 3-0 vote.

Phil Amones, Highway Department Superintendent, reported the following:

1. They could only accept one salt bid instead of two due to signing a contract. Givens amended his original motion to accept the two lowest bids (July 2, 2007); to accept only the lowest bid which was from Cargill at \$47.15 a ton. Hauptert seconded the amended motion and it passed with a 3-0 vote.
2. Amones stated an Additional Appropriation for \$1000 will be needed for the Bridge 208 project which had been closed out. An invoice for \$460 has been received and there will probably be one more invoice to be final. Hauptert moved to approve the Additional Appropriation request to the Council. His motion was seconded by Givens and passed 3-0.
3. In an update about personnel changes in his department, Amones reported to the Commissioners that one applicant has accepted a Driver/Operator position and he discussed recommendations for the Board’s approval for a second vacant position.
4. Finally Amones gave a report on the progress of the Town Street projects: Sandy Beach and Ijamsville have been completed and they have started on the rest.

Wabash County Sheriff Leroy Striker reported to the Commissioners the average daily population for the past week was 95.66. He also informed the Commissioners he needed to request Additional Appropriations for unused employee benefits for several employees who have resigned or are planning to retire and for Employee Group Insurance in his department’s budget. The Board approved his requests to go to Council. In other matters Striker reported one of his vehicles had been involved in a car-deer accident; that he is in the second phase of the hiring process for two deputy positions and that Deputy Ryan Chambers had graduated from the Police Academy last week.

Striker also discussed with the Board arrangements for the viewing and funeral of slain Indiana State Police Detective Master Trooper David E. Rich. The Judges of the Courts had cancelled court for the funeral and following discussion, the Commissioners decided to officially close the Courthouse and

Judicial Center from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on Wednesday, July 10th to allow employees to attend the funeral.

EMA Director Bob Brown also discussed plans for traffic control and the closing of streets and roads for the funeral as well as the efforts of several other counties volunteering to help operational units that will be available to help with the large crowds expected. Brown also reported about the District Planning Council Meeting and the need to replace radio repeaters with E911 funds.

Commissioner Attorney Tom Mattern was present with nothing to report.

Trula Frank of the Wabash County Convention and Visitors Bureau presented the Commissioners with packets of Wabash County tourism information and reviewed the Proposed 2008 budget for the CVB to be funded from the county's Innkeepers Tax. Commissioners thanked her for her dedication and work for the CVB and Wabash County.

Concerning a question of salary for a new employee hired in the Prosecutor's office: discussion was held regarding the Commissioner's revised Employee Handbook (205 Introductory Period-page 15) stating "all new and re-hired employees will be compensated at 85% of the same base salary as the regular fulltime employee for the first 90 calendar days of employment." The Prosecutor has requested that his new employee be paid at the same rate of the previous employee. The Commissioners concurred that they need to be consistent, but that in trying to "make one size fit all" there has been some confusion among the various departments. They agreed that the new employee should start at only 85% of the salary of the former fulltime employee for the introductory period of 90 days as the current policy states. However, they stated that they plan to work with the new County Coordinator/Human Resource Director to look into the matter.

Auditor Jane Ridgeway presented Change Order #2 from Schneider Corporation for additional licensing for Mike Howard and Kelvin Grumpp at the July 2nd meeting. Following discussion it was decided to invite the GIS Committee to the next meeting to explain the request for the Change Order and also the suggested appropriation requests for conferences and training in 2008. Members of the GIS Committee: Mike Howard, Cheri Slee and Matt Moorman were present today to explain their request for Change Order #2 from Schneider for two additional Geogear licenses at a cost of \$3400 that were not part of the original contract. Following discussion, Brian moved to approved the Change Order and Givens seconded the motion. It was approved by a 3-0 vote. Also addressed were travel and conferences requested in the 2008 budget. The budgeted request previous had been for approximately \$4500 for conferences plus expenses. The Commissioners asked for a general idea about which conferences were involved, who will attend and total costs. They

suggested that “key” people attend and come back to report rather than sending the whole committee to each conference.

Matt Moorman also addressed the Commissioners on behalf of his Master Gardener Program and asked permission to place urn style planters at the Courthouse entrances. He estimated six planters at a cost of \$75.00 each would be needed and the Master Gardeners class members would plant and maintain them. They would like to seek sponsors for the planters to replenish any county funds that would have to be expended. The Commissioners unanimously approved the purchases.

Ridgeway reminded the Board of the Special Session of the Wabash County Council to be held on Monday, July 16 at 8:30 A.M. for a presentation by Bill Konyha of EDG to establish the Wabash County Economic Development Commission and to review and approve the Development Agreement for the POET Ethanol Plant.

Commissioners reviewed the following:

Notice of Legal Survey Completed – WLM Surveying – Lawson Property in Speicherville

Oracle – Abell Elevator bill for service

No other Business, the meeting recessed. Commissioners will meet again on Monday, July 16, 2007 in the Commissioners meeting room at the Wabash County Courthouse following the Special Session of County Council at 8:30 A.M.