

AUGUST 13, 2007

The Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, August 13, 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 August 6, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Hauptert moved to approve the minutes as written; his motion was seconded by Givens and approved by a 3-0 vote.

Phil Amones, Highway Department Superintendent, reported the following:

1. He will need an Additional Appropriation for chip and seal funds as they will be short this year due to the cost of asphalt. He was given approval from the Board to request an Additional \$80,000 from the Local Road and Street Fund on a motion by Hauptert, second by Givens and a 3-0 vote.
2. A request from John Pullen, 3856 S 680 E, to tile across the road due to standing water. The Commissioners discussed the cost which Amones estimated at \$306 to be paid by Pullen. Hauptert moved to approve, seconded by Givens and approved by a 3-0 vote.
3. A Verizon Request to Bury cable at 2511 E 250 S near 300 E was approved and signed.
4. Reported on discussions with the Railroad about the possibility of installing arm signals at the crossing on 50E in Treaty. The crossing is on the list to be done but unfortunately not high on the list.

Wabash County Sheriff Leroy Striker reported an average daily population in the jail of 84.95 this week. Striker also discussed with the Board his desire to have Wabash County pass an ordinance allowing the sheriff's department to charge sex and violent offenders both an annual registration fee and a separate address change fee. Several counties have established these fees to help offset the costs of administering or ensuring compliance with the laws concerning the Indiana sex and violent offender registry. Such an ordinance would be passed by the County Council with the County Commissioners consent. Striker presented a sample ordinance for the Commissioners to review. They took the matter under advisement.

EMA Director Bob Brown presented quotes for the courthouse parking lot cameras and a clarification of the quotes for the Boards consideration. Brown reported he will attend a meeting in Huntington this week about possible additional grants. He also reported about finishing up the North Manchester Fun Fest on Saturday and about needing to install a cabinet for the Courthouse AED.

Commissioner Attorney Tom Mattern reviewed a letter from Atlas Building Services Inc. in reference to the Wabash County Courthouse Cornice Repairs project. The Commissioners will review the letter and the bids received last week with Scarse Rudisell Architect Jeff Kumfer.

County Coordinator Jim Dils presented the Commissioners two quotes for the removal of the tulip tree on the south lawn of the Courthouse. The quote from Sam's Tree Removal of LaFontaine for \$575.00 could be scheduled for possibly 4-6 weeks. The quote from Lewis Tree Trimming & Removal of North Manchester for \$600.00 could be scheduled for next week. Because the Board felt that the tree should be removed as soon as possible, before it falls and causes damage, Hauptert moved to approve the Lewis quote and Givens seconded the motion. It was approved by a 3-0 vote.

Clerk of the Courts Lori Draper presented a contract from the State to continue maintenance for the Voter Registration system. The agreement will renew through December 2009. The State will continue to provide a line into the buildings and maintenance. The Commissioners approved and signed the agreement following a motion by Hauptert, second by Givens and a 3-0 vote.

North Manchester resident Steve Sheets of 1510 Wayne Street asked the Commissioners why they do not have a County Building Inspector. He feels as a concerned citizen there should be some authority to insure all public buildings are maintained in a safe and secure manner throughout the county and there should be accountability for negligence by owners who do not properly maintain buildings public or private. Chairman Templin responded that the Board has requested funds in the 2008 budget to hire a part-time building inspector but that until the Council and the State approve the request there will be no funding available. Commissioner Givens commented that normally an insurance company will require that buildings be maintained in a safe manner. Sheets stated he thought "a Building Inspector could put some teeth in the accountability of the inspections."

Kathryn Carter-Lower and Lynn Dannacher of the Health Department presented the following with the Commissioners:

1. They discussed with the Board the need to have more funds for Contractual Services to help with the 181 Food Establishment inspections. They estimate needing about \$5000 a year for approximately seven hours a week and to cover for Dannacher's vacation etc. They feel they have some funds that can be transferred within the 2007 Budget but may need an additional \$500.
2. They reviewed the Hotel and Lodging Ordinance that had been written and reviewed in 2006 and the fees that were established. The Commissioners asked that the fee schedule be attached as an exhibit in the Ordinance.

3. Also presented was a request for a more powerful computer for Jennifer Swango to use with the GIS program for septic locations in the county. Swango has an Additional Appropriation request in to the Council for an upgrade at a cost of \$2200.
4. Carter-Lower requested permission to attend the Fall Conference in September in Indianapolis.
5. The Vital Records office would like a second phone as they now have two people working in the office and sharing only one phone. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of adding one to the current switchboard system.
6. The Health Board is still in need of one member to be appointed by the Commissioners to fill a vacancy. They have been looking for a qualified person willing to serve on the Board.
7. Inquired about the cleaning service contract.

Joe Updike of the ASCS office discussed with the Commissioners a 319 Grant Proposal for the Friends of the Eel River Watershed in conjunction with Miami County. If the EPA Grant through IDEM is approved it will be a four year project study of the water status condition and quality. The grant would be a 40% match which can be in-kind services. Updike asked if the Commissioners would write a letter of support for the grant and pledge equipment time from the County Highway Department similar to Miami County which has pledged 30 hours of backhoe and dump truck time for the project. Following discussion the Board agreed to support the grant and Amones also agreed to pledge equipment time from the Highway Department. Dils was asked to write a letter of support for the County Commissioners.

County Auditor Jane Ridgeway and Treasurer LuAnn Layman discussed the annual delinquent property Tax Sale to be held on October 10th at 9:00 A.M. Ridgeway asked the Commissioners approval for SRI, Inc to manage the Tax Sale again this year. Haupert moved to approve the agreement with SRI, his motion was seconded by Givens and approved by a 3-0 vote.

Ridgeway also requested the Commissioners approval for a Transfer of Funds within the County General Fund Commissioners Personal Services Budget between excess appropriations for the County Coordinator and the Animal Warden line items to cover Virginia Reahard's retirement benefits payout of \$8,762.88. The Commissioners approved and signed the request.

Commissioners reviewed and approved the Payroll Claims and Allowance for the Pay Period ended August 11, 2007; Including a Final Pay for Unused Benefits for the Sheriff's Department.

They also reviewed the following:

Monthly Report – Clerk of the Circuit Court – July 31, 2007

Letter from Central: Inspection of Bell and Clock in Courthouse tower

MSD Schools: Request for stone for School bus parking in Urbana

Review of Wabash County Computer Policy

No other Business, the meeting recessed. The next meeting will be Monday, August 20, 2007 in the Commissioners meeting room at the Wabash County Courthouse at 9:00 A.M.