

AUGUST 27, 2007

The Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, August 27, 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, Brian K. Hauptert and Scott E. Givens. The minutes from the August 20, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved as written on a motion by Hauptert, seconded by Templin and a 2-0 vote. (Givens joined the meeting immediately following the vote.)

Phil Amones, Highway Department Superintendent, reported the following to the Board:

1. An Additional Appropriation will be needed in the MVH Superintendent line item due to the retirement unused benefit pay-out for Larry Rice in May. Hauptert moved to approve the request to the Council; his motion was seconded by Givens and approved by a 3-0 vote.
2. An Additional Appropriation will also be needed in the MVH Fuel & Oil line item of approximately \$49,000 for the remainder of the year. This request was also approved to take to the County Council on a motion by Hauptert, second by Givens and a 3-0 vote.
3. A request from Verizon to bury 338' of cable along the north and south sides of 800N for the new North Manchester Ethanol Plant at 868 E. 800 N. was also unanimously approved by the Board.
4. Amones also reported a total of 90.25 miles of Chip & Seal was finished as of last week.

Wabash County Sheriff Leroy Striker reported an average daily population in the jail of 79 this past week with 77 in the jail today. He also reported on the power outage damage from the storms last week including an air conditioner compressor, phones, fax and other issues. Insurance has been contacted and the County has a \$5000. deductible that will be applied. He was asked to keep the Auditor and Commissioners informed as the damage bills are totaled. Striker was asked by Templin if his department was still using Pay Trust Solutions for credit card payments of bonds and fines. He replied that yes a percentage of the payments are processed through Pay Trust Solutions satisfactorily. County Auditor Jane Ridgeway informed Striker that her office has been informed that his County Misdemeanant funds from the state are to be received tomorrow (August 28th).

Commissioner Attorney Tom Mattern was present and signed the annual Declaration of County Tax Rates for the Auditor to report no change in the CEDIT and CAGIT rates for the current year.

Bill Konyha, President & CEO of the Wabash Economic Development Group, presented to the Commissioners the following:

1. Economic Development Plan for Wabash County for \$220,000 of bond proceeds for development of the Ethanol plants. Konyha said any additional costs are to be paid by the company – “outside of TIF”.
2. Redevelopment Commission Declaratory Resolution for \$568,700 of bond proceeds toward the development of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts infrastructure for the Ethanol plants.
3. A Resolution of the Wabash County Plan Commission determining that a Resolution and an Economic Development Plan for the Wabash County Industrial Park Economic Development area approved and adopted by the Wabash County Redevelopment Commission conform to the Plan of Development for Wabash County and Approving the Resolution and Plan.

Konyha also reported that the South Plant (LaFontaine) was progressing with an inspection scheduled for Wednesday, inter-creditor agreement and appraisals done last week. He explained that road projects for both projects need to be worked out with Highway Superintendent Amones and that those projects will probably be in 2008 rather than 2007. He also mentioned reimbursable state grants of approximately \$300,000 for the county road improvements needed. Following discussion, Givens moved to approve the agreements for the South project. His motion was seconded by Hauptert and approved by a 3-0 vote. Hauptert moved to approve the agreements for the North project. His motion was seconded by Givens and approved by a 3-0 vote.

Wabash County Surveyor Cheri Slee asked the Commissioners to approve a request to the County Council for an Additional Appropriation to purchase a GIS Watershed layer at a cost of \$39,364. Her request was approved by the Board to move to the Council on a motion by Hauptert, second by Givens and a 3-0 vote.

County Coordinator Jim Dils reviewed a letter from Scarce-Rudisel Architect representative Jeff Kumfer concerning the questions on the bids advertised and received on August 6, 2007 for the Cornice Repair Project at the Courthouse. Attached was a letter of certification from Kent Short, a Wabash Valley Restoration official, stating the company’s experience and qualifications in working with lead-abatement paint removal. Atlas representative Jeff Van Vasler was present. Following discussion, Hauptert moved to award the project to the lowest bidder, Wabash Valley Restoration. His motion was seconded Givens and awarded on a 3-0 vote.

Julie Eckret, daughter of Harry Haggard who used to do maintenance on the Courthouse bell tower and dome as well as other Wabash businesses, was present to ask the Commissioners for support for a fund raiser Fish Fry and Auction to be held on August 31st due to medical conditions of her father. The Commissioners stated that the County has no “Promotional” funds for such donations but that they would allow the Auditor to send out information about the fund raiser to County departments and employees.

Reviewed and approved was the Payroll Claims and Allowance Docket for the Pay Period ended August 25th.

The Commissioners also approved salary increases to full pay for their positions for both Highway Superintendent Phil Amones (as of August 10th) and County Coordinator Jim Dils (as of September 4th) following the completion of 90 day probationary status.

Also reviewed were the following:

Declaration of County CREDIT & CAGIT Tax Rates

County Treasurer's Monthly Report – July 31, 2007

IDEM: Notice of Public Comment – CertainTeed Ceilings

Wabash County Tourism Commission – Minutes of July 23, 2007

Mediacom Letter to Commissioners

Malinowski Consulting, Inc. Letter

No other Business, the meeting recessed to the main floor lobby of the Courthouse where a surprise reception was held in honor of retiring Commissioners' Attorney Tom Mattern. Mattern has served in this position since 1982. He was presented a plaque from the Commissioners and received the well wishes of many County Officials and employees in the presence of his family.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 4, 2007 in the Commissioners meeting room at the Wabash County Courthouse at 9:00 A.M.