

DECEMBER 21, 2007

Wabash County Commissioners met in Special Session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Friday, December 21, 2007 to conduct year end business. Chairman Templin called the meeting to order with all members present: Les Templin, Scott Givens and Brian Hauptert. County Auditor Jane Ridgeway recorded the minutes. Hauptert moved to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2007 meeting as written. His motion was seconded by Givens and approved with a 2-0 vote.

Highway Superintendent Phil Amones presented a Request to Construct Utility Fixtures with County Owned Right-Of-Way from Verizon. This would start at the northeast corner of CR 100E and CR 850N, bore across 20 feet 850N to the west and continue in the 5' ROW for 450' to a home at 8446N 100E. The board approved the request based on Amones' recommendation and Templin signed the request. The Commissioners also gave Amones permission to schedule installing a new tile under CR 1400N with Troy Eads Excavating, as per previous discussions and quotes, on a motion by Givens, seconded by Hauptert and a 3-0 vote.

County Coordinator Jim Dils reported that the Courthouse clock and bell have been repaired and are back in service. The lighting on the face of the clock still needs to be replaced and will be finished soon. Also Dils mentioned he had received questions about protest information for the right to display on courthouse property. The Board also approved for Universal Appraisal to update the building appraisals for County-owned property.

Clerk of the Courts Lori Draper reported the following to the board:

1. Car stops in the parking lot behind her office are over the hill since the snow storm but Custodian Dick Smith is planning to replace them.
2. Due to computer problems in her office, she will need a new XP Pro system to operate the new anti-virus software, but since she needs a new computer at the counter she may be able to switch some around in order to use the new software. Also the state will not support a printer she purchased and she will need two new printers. Draper also reported that probably within two years the state will require that she have an IT person; however she believes she may be able to use funds she is now paying to CSI. The Commissioners reminded her to inform the Council at budget time and to have estimates for contracting for IT support.
3. She has received notice that two employees are planning to leave: one as of January 2, 2008 and one retiring in March. The Board discussed with Attorney Steve Downs and Human Resource Coordinator Dils the employee handbook and how earned vacation leave should be credited.
4. Also a letter from Pitney Bowes was received by Draper that they were going to discontinue the postage meter machine in her office so she is looking into other options.

Attorney Steve Downs, representing the Wabash County Hospital board, presented a letter of recommendation to appoint Kent Terrill to the board as a replacement for Ed Cable. Hauptert moved to approve the appointment for the remainder of Cable's term from January 1, 2008 to March 31, 2011. Givens seconded the motion and it was approved 3-0.

Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway presented an Ordinance providing that Property Tax Refunds shall be applied first against delinquent property taxes, regarding the state Homestead Property rebates currently being calculated for refund checks. Following review, Givens moved to approve the ordinance which would become General Ordinance No. 85-16, 2007. Hauptert seconded the motion and it passed on a 3-0 vote. Givens then moved to suspend the rules and adopt the ordinance. This motion was also seconded by Hauptert and the ordinance was adopted by a 3-0 vote of the Board as follows:

The Board of Commissioners of Wabash County, Indiana

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 85-16, 2007

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING THAT PROPERTY TAX REFUNDS SHALL BE APPLIED FIRST AGAINST DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES

WHEREAS, Public Law 234-2007, Section 300 (b) passed by the General Assembly on November 20, 2007 and signed by the Governor on November 21, 2007, allows for a property tax refund for a portion of homestead property taxes paid in 2007 as a means to provide property tax relief for homeowners, and

WHEREAS, Public Law 234-2007, Section 300 (d) passed by the General Assembly on November 20, 2007 and signed by the Governor on November 21, 2007, states that the county legislative body may adopt an ordinance providing that the amount of the 2007 property tax refund (rebate) shall be applied first against any delinquent property taxes owed in the county by the taxpayer,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Prior to issuing a warrant for or submitting disbursement by electronic transfer of a tax refund for a portion of homestead property taxes paid in 2007, the County Auditor and County Treasurer shall search the records of delinquent property taxes and determine whether any taxpayer who is entitled to a homestead credit refund owes any delinquent property taxes.
2. In the event a Wabash County taxpayer is entitled to a tax refund for a portion of homestead property taxes paid in 2007, such refund shall be applied first against any delinquent property taxes owed by the taxpayer.
3. After applying a refund against any delinquent property taxes owed by a taxpayer, the remainder of the refund, if any, shall be paid or transmitted as provided by Public Law 234-2007.

Adopted this 21st Day of December, 2007.

ss/ Lester D. Templin, Chairman ss/ Brian K. Hauptert ss/Scott Givens

ATTEST: ss/Jane Harper Ridgeway, Auditor

In other business, the Board signed Certificates of Appointment for the three members of the Economic Development Commission members as appointed by the Commissioners on August 6, 2007: Kent Terrill for a one year term; Bruce Ingraham for a two year term; and Hal Job for a three year term.

EMA Director Bob Brown informed the Board that he had received a \$4000 computer equipment grant for Critical Infrastructure Assessment.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the following as presented by the Auditor:

Soil & Water Conservation Grant Claim

Small Business Administration CREDIT Claim

2008 Officials Bonds

Wabash County Tourism Commission Minutes of November 19 meeting

INDOT Purchase Order: Road Rehabilitation Old SR 15; 124 to Meridian – Phase 3

No other business, the Board recessed. The Commissioners will meet informally in the Auditor's Office in special session on December 27th to review and approve the final 2007 Payroll Claim and Allowance Docket for the pay period ended December 31, 2007. The next regular meeting will be a re-organizational meeting on January 2, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners Meeting Room on the second floor of the courthouse.