

**June 12, 2023**

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, June 12, 2023. Vice-Chairman Jeff D. Dawes called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with two commissioners present: Dawes and Barry J. Eppley. Hauptert was absent. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the June 5, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0 vote.

Geoff Schortgen, Purdue Extension Director, requested \$5,000 for 4-H for the 2024 budget cycle. The cost to use the fairgrounds for the Wabash County 4-H Fair is \$12,500 annually. The \$5,000 is applied toward this expense. Schortgen also left a newsletter for the commissioners to review at their leisure.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent, presented a road cut permit from NIPSCO to retire service at 29 Vacation Way at Long Lake. Eppley made a motion to approve the permit. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0 vote.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff, reported the jail currently has 84 inmates, with 11 additional being housed in the Miami County Jail, 3 in the Fulton County Jail and 44 in the Tipton County Jail. Last week there were 18 book-ins and 5 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 85. The total prisoner count was 139.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director, requested approval to have a change order prepared for the courthouse tower project. During an inspection last week, more extensive damage was discovered than what was noted on the original estimate. E Lee Construction gave an estimate of \$100,000 - \$150,000 for the extra work and materials that will be needed. Eppley made a motion; to approve the request for a change order to be prepared for up to \$150,00. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0 vote.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor, presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 06/12/2023. Eppley made a motion to approve the claims and allowances as presented. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0 vote.
2. Correction in the withholdings (6/5/2023), due to a mathematical error. The commissioners acknowledged the error.
3. June settlement for disbursement to the County and the other taxing units for \$21,333,820.55. Eppley made a motion to approve the disbursement. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0 vote.
4. Requested signatures on the state Covered Bridge Certification for 2023. The commissioners signed the certification.

Dawes announced that a local youth from Wabash County, Landon Veverka, attained the highest rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America after his board of review on April 27, 2023. Landon, the son of Staci Veverka, earned the award after completing 37 merit badges and his service project involving 128 hours creating a drop box for unserviceable U.S. flags for American Legion Post 248 and the local community.

Landon advanced through all ranks of Scouting as member of Troup 454 of the American Legion Post 248. Troup 454 has been making a difference in the community for 7 years. Landon held the office of Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader in his unit.

The Eagle Scout rank has always carried with it a special significance, not only in scouting but also in higher education, business and industry and community service. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards and an impressive history. Less than 5 percent of all Scouts achieve the rank of

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Eagle. This represents more than 2.5 million Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912. The commissioners congratulated Landon on his achievement.

Eppley made a motion to approve a contract, subject to attorney review not to exceed \$5,000 from Veridus as a consultant on the new jail roof. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed as a 3-0 vote.

Eppley requested payment be submitted to RQAW for services provided to bring payment on the account up to date.


Dawes asked if there were any ADA or Title VI concerns. None were heard.

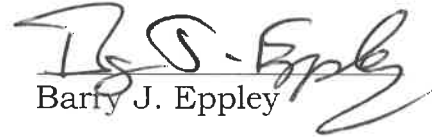
With no other public comment or other business to come before the Board of Commissioners the meeting was adjourned. The commissioners will next meet on Monday, June 19, 2023.

Also present: *In person*: Shelly Bauccho, Cole Wyatt, Steve Downs, Dave Nelson, Louella Krom, Chris Hickman, Cheryl Ridgeway, Suzanne Peebles, Gary Ridenour, Alex Downard, Marcella Palmer, Patsy Favorite and Cheryl Ross. *Via Zoom*: Amanda, Melanie Penn, Kandy Barker, Connie, Dexter, Farm Life and Don Jervis.

**WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Brian K. Hauptert  
Chairman

  
Jeff D. Dawes  
Vice-Chairman

  
Barry J. Eppley

Attest:   
Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor