

## **JANUARY 2, 2008**

Wabash County Commissioners met in their first Regular Session of the New Year in the Wabash County Courthouse on Wednesday, January 2, 2008. Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway called the meeting to order with all members present: Les Templin, Scott Givens and Brian Hauptert. The Auditor also recorded the minutes of the meeting. Ridgeway opened the nominations for the office of Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the year 2008. Templin nominated Scott Givens to serve as Chairman. His motion was seconded by Hauptert and approved by a 3-0 vote. Hauptert then moved that the nominations be closed. This motion was seconded by Templin and Givens was elected unanimously. The Auditor turned the meeting over to Chairman Givens who then called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Templin nominated Hauptert and Givens seconded the motion. Hauptert was elected by a 3-0 vote.

Templin moved to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2007 Special Session meeting as written. His motion was seconded by Hauptert and the minutes were approved by a 3-0 vote.

Highway Superintendent Phil Amones was present with only an update on the weekend snow storm and status of county road plowing to report.

Wabash County Sheriff Leroy Striker reported the following to the Board:

1, An average daily inmate population in the jail this past week of 101.53\*, with 95 in jail this morning.

2. As to fire extinguisher maintenance contracts, Striker is in favor of consolidating the agreements with various county departments to save money and is working with County Coordinator Jim Dils on agreement quotes. He noted he\* feels the County should annually reassess the options to save money while maintaining quality service. Dils presented cost comparisons for the Board's review. Striker and Dils will continue to review the quotes.

3. Attorney Downs asked Striker about the status of his departments' liability insurance and he stated he is working with Beauchamp and McSpadden Insurance and they hope to present two options for coverage to the Commissioners prior to the February 1<sup>st</sup> expiration of the current policy.

4. The Auditor and Sheriff proposed a plan to the Board to consolidate the two budget line items of Custodian Dick Smith into one line item in the Commissioners Budget. For many years Smith has worked full-time for the county as a Custodian but under a Part-time Custodian appropriation in the County General Fund - Jail budget and a Part-Time Custodian appropriation in the County General Fund - Memorial Hall budget. They proposed that this move could simplify the reporting of the hours and payroll procedures for Smith as well as better reflect the position he is working. Templin moved to approve a budget transfer as suggested; his motion was seconded by Hauptert and approved 3-0.

EMA Director Bob Brown reported to the Board the repairing of the drywall in the Courthouse lower level, EMA offices area, is progressing with Mark Draper Construction and requested permission to replace a door in the area with one given him by the Sheriff's department. The only cost would be to customize the door to fit and installation by Draper for approximately \$125.00 to be paid from the CCD Fund.\* Brown stated he could pay for any additional locksmith costs from his EMA budget.\* The Board unanimously agreed to add the door install to the project.

Attorney Steve Downs updated the Commissioners on the status of the 1400N drainage agreement. He stated Amones was going to approach the Drainage Board about the situation.

In addition to the fire extinguisher quotes, County Coordinator Jim Dils discussed with the board the lighting on the face of the courthouse clock. He also\* requested the Board call an Executive Session to continue discussions about personnel policy issues. Following discussion, Chairman Givens set an Executive Session for 11:00 A.M. on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Pleasant Township Trustee-Assessor Rebecca Warmuth and Stan Bagley representing the Pleasant Township Steering Committee, which is addressing the sewage problems in the Laketon, Sandy Beach, Ireland Beach, Long Lake and Ijamsville areas, appeared before the Commissioners to inform them of the focus and status of their committee's actions. They explained by state statute their committee needs "the blessing" of the Board of Commissioners as they proceed with plans for grants and other funding for income and engineering studies for this possible multi-million dollar project. Following discussion, Givens thanked them for the information and expressed the Board's appreciation for their actions. Bagley stated that if the project progresses, the Commissioners will be responsible for appointing a board to oversee the project plan.

Planning Director Mike Howard presented the Board with quotes for a new color printer for his office and others to be used with the new GIS map printing. The GIS Committee is in support of this purchase from CCD funds for computer equipment upgrades that could be encumbered for 2008. Following discussion, the Board asked Howard to return with three quotes for a printer for their consideration.

Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway presented the following for the Commissioners to review:

IDEM Notice of Decision: Approval –Duke Energy Indiana: Miami-Wabash Peaking Station

Mediacom Letter concerning channel lineup.

Certificate of Insurance for R.L. McCoy, Inc.

Memorandum from Clerk Lori Draper concerning deputy position openings in her office.

No other business, the Board recessed. The Commissioners will meet on January 7, 2008 following the Wabash County Council meeting at 8:00 A.M. in the Commissioners Meeting Room on the second floor of the courthouse. They will also meet in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 11:00 A.M. on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

\* Amended with approval – January 7, 2008