

## **FEBRUARY 4, 2008**

Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 4, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. Chairman Scott Givens called the meeting to order with all members present: Lester Templin, Brian Haupert and Scott Givens. Auditor Jane Ridgeway recorded the minutes.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 28, 2008 meeting. Haupert moved to approve the minutes as written. His motion was seconded by Templin and approved by a 3-0 vote.

Highway Superintendent Phil Amones informed Commissioners that applicants for a Driver/Operator position had been narrowed to one. Amones requested permission to offer the position to the one applicant. A consensus was given by Commissioners for the recommendation. Amones also stated the roads were in good condition following the heavy snow over the weekend.

Wabash County Sheriff Leroy Striker reported:

1. An average daily inmate population last week of 101.95.
2. Presented a Notice of Claim: Siders, from ARCH Insurance Group.
3. Insurance process is moving forward. He expects papers to be signed this week.
4. There was no claim on deer crash that occurred last weekend.
5. Commissioners had received a question from a resident concerning a semi parked on a designated pull off on private property along a roadway. Striker stated if it is on private property as stated, it would be allowed. If in the future there is a concern or questions on the matter, they are more than welcome to contact law enforcement and they would address the issue.
6. Regarding Weather-related Emergency notifications in Wabash County such as the snow storm warning last Thursday and Friday, Striker asked that Commissioners use the Ordinance's levels of emergency which was recently adopted. Suggestions to make a pre-emergency alert prior to a possible storm should rest with the Local Weather Stations. Should a storm arrive, then the County may initiate an emergency alert and determine which level of emergency to make. EMA director Bob Brown had spoken with the State regarding the emergency level issue. Wabash County had chosen not to follow the state Homeland Security four level alert matrixes in the past, but Brown did say he has adapted our new Snow Emergency Ordinance to the State Alert System for reporting purposes to the state. Wabash County would be a level 1 or a level 4 only using the new ordinance and the state matrix.

EMA Director Bob Brown requested permission to go before the County Council for an additional appropriation totaling \$5,800.00 for the Code Red Weather Warning Program. Brown is working with the Wabash Police Department and the news media in raising public awareness on the Code Red Program.

County Attorney Steve Downs was present with nothing to report.

County Coordinator Jim Dils was also present with nothing to report.

Lori Draper, Clerk of the Courts, reported:

1. Need to purchase an automatic Date Time stamp. She would like to purchase through Adventures in Advertising. The total cost would be \$582.00 to be paid from Clerk's Incentive Fund plus shipping. Hauptert made a motion to approve. Motion was seconded by Templin and approved with a 3-0 vote.
2. New computer with battery back-up is being installed.
3. Reviewed the advertised claim for the voting machines totaling \$108,000.00.

Rochelle Owens, Director for the Indiana Rural Community Assistance Program, presented information that would address the sewage problems in the Laketon and Ijamsville Communities. Problems exist with current septic systems that are not adequate and are possibly causing contamination to the Eel River. A new system would be created to collect and treat sewage and hopefully lower pollution levels in said communities. The idea is to establish a regional sewer district. A petition would be sent to IDEM requesting approval to create the Regional Sewer District. Then, following approval by both the Commissioners and the County Council, a Township Advisory Committee would be formed, tentatively to be headed by Becky Warmuth, Pleasant Township Trustee, to oversee process. Owens stated surveys would be sent out to residents with information that would be used in obtaining a possible grant from the Rural Community Assistance Program to help with funding the changes. Owens also stated letters of support from local officials will be sought. Owens stated that if the project were approved it would be a cost less than \$5,000.00 for Wabash County. Cheri Slee, Wabash County Surveyor, presented a letter of support to Owens for this project signed by the Drainage Board.

Mike Blake of Quality Electric updated Commissioners on the heating and cooling system problems at the courthouse. Blake stated that there are more than forty units in the courthouse and four units have Freon leaks. Three of these four units have the same model number, but according to the manufacturer it is not the unit itself that is the problem but is due to sulfur in the air. Also, the units have flow restrictors in the water system that were not cleaned in the past. This could also be part of the problem. Blake stated two added service visits per year to check the screens would be his suggestion.

Commissioners requested that the filters be checked at the same time. Blake agreed. Also, there are concerns with the compressors not starting up. Blake stated these compressors are continually running and may need to look at new larger units. Jim Dils, County Coordinator will review all information and possibly look into quotes on new units and/or compressors.

Beverly Ferry, Wabash County Council on Aging, presented the Fourth Quarter Report. In the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter there were 31,000 rides provided and Medicare reimbursements of \$40,000.00. An outside source was being used to process claims. Now, the claims will be done in house with the assistance of a Senior Aide from Catholic Charities Group. Ferry also submitted the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Wabash County Transit Contract totaling \$15,309.00.

Lori Foust, Wabash County Health Department, informed Commissioners that her computer in the Health Department will not connect with the CHIRP state site. They thought it might be the computer or the wireless connection – not sure. Commissioners gave permission to change the wireless connection to a direct wire. Ernie Ball of Phone Line Inc. would be available to change current connection on Tuesday, February 05, 2008.

Jane Ridgeway, WC Auditor, presented:

1. Check from the Cincinnati Insurance Company for damage claim on the probation van totaling \$1,666.55. Commissioners endorsed check for the body shop repair.
2. A report on the CEDIT/CAGIT monies that will be deposited into the Counties Rainy Day Fund from the state. Wabash County designated the Rainy Day Fund to be used for employee payouts for employees leaving employment of Wabash County Government with unused employee benefits. The current balance in the Rainy Day fund is \$353,074.68; the distribution will be \$256,057.73 for a total balance of \$609,132.41.
3. An Invoice from Manatron for Annual Support and Maintenance totaling \$29,626.00. Commissioners discussed the Invoice and unanimously approved processing payment.
4. A Memorandum concerning the 2007 W-2s. They have all been distributed in courthouse mail boxes or by mail as of January 31, 2008. Those that had been involved in the Deferred Compensation plan have received corrected W-2's due to a software error. Also the 1099 forms were sent out as well. Next year all personal services rendered by employees will be paid through payroll and separate 1099's will most likely not be necessary.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the Accounts Payable Claims and Allowance Docket advertised for payment – February 4, 2008.

They also reviewed a letter form IDEM: Notice of Decision- approval: Laketon Refining Corporation.

No other business, the Board recessed. The Commissioners will meet again on Monday, February 11, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners Meeting Room on the second floor of the courthouse.