

March 2, 2015

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, March 2, 2015. Chairman Brian K. Hauptert called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioners present: Hauptert, Barry J. Eppley and Scott E. Givens. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Linda Conrad. The minutes of the February 23, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Givens made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

John Martin, County Highway Superintendent stated he would like to set April 13th at 9:30 a.m. as the date and time for the commissioners to receive the annual salt bids. The commissioners agreed to the date and time.

Wabash County Sheriff Bob Land reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 82 inmates with 19 inmates housed at the Miami County Jail. The peak population was 88. There were 13 transports and 19 book-ins.

Land stated he has inquired into the purchase of two new vehicles on a three year lease for a total of \$50,214 less the amount of a trade-in for a 2009 Dodge Charger.

Keith Walters, County EMA Director presented the 2014 Performance Grant from the Department of Homeland Security. It provides partial salary reimbursement for the EMA staff. The commissioners signed the grant.

Mark Frantz, County Attorney representative was present with nothing to report.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director was present with nothing to report.

Auditor Linda Conrad presented the accounts payable claims and allowance docket for March 2, 2015. The commissioners approved and signed.

Commissioner Hauptert read proposed Ordinance 2015-85-01 with regard to fees charged for services and records provided by the Wabash County Health Department. Eppley made a motion to approve Ordinance 2015-85-01. Givens seconded the motion; it passed on first reading by a 3-0 vote. The second reading will take place on March 9, 2015.

Stan Bagley, President of the Laketon Regional Area Sewer District and Pleasant Township advisory board member stated that Son Rise Communication, LLC has approached the township advisory board. They are requesting permission to place equipment on the tower at the fire station to provide the area with internet service. Since the tower belongs to the county the board is bringing the request before the commissioners. The fire station is also a polling place which must have internet service. The current provider is in the process of going through bankruptcy. The commissioners asked that the information be forwarded to County Attorney Steve Downs and they took the request under advisement.

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Bagley also gave an update on the sewer project. Pumps and feeder pipes have been installed but two residential areas need to be connected. Once connected, the inter-connection will be run to North Manchester. The system should be operational by fall.

United Consulting Vice President Steve Jones presented two issues regarding the proposed modification on 200 W just north of US 24.

1. The preliminary plans are complete. Title research revealed that a large portion of the land which would be involved is owned by the State of Indiana (right-of-way). Therefore, any action going forward will need to be coordinated with INDOT.
2. There is a private road that is owned by the abutting farm and there are several easement right-of-ways to the road. To close the road during construction would require getting signatures from the land owner as well as the easement and tenant holders. This would increase the cost of the land acquisition.

United Consulting is bringing these issues before the commissioners to inform them and to be sure of how the commissioners wish to proceed. They will contact the state before moving any farther.

With no other business to come before the Board of Commissioners, the meeting was adjourned. The commissioners will next meet on Monday, March 9, 2015.

Wabash Plain Dealer editor Eric Seaman, Wabash County reporter Mackenzi Klemann, County Central Dispatch Sandy Beeks, and United Consulting representatives Jeremy Richardson and Devon Stetler.