

## February 20, 2017

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, February 20, 2017. Commissioner Scott E. Givens called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioners present: Givens, Barry J. Eppley and Brian K. Hauptert. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the February 13, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

John Martin, County Highway Superintendent was present with nothing to report.

Bob Land, Wabash County Sheriff reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 80 inmates with 51 inmates housed at the Miami County Jail and 6 inmates at the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 24 new book-ins and 13 transports to the DOC. The peak population was 83.

Land stated that a full-time jail officer has resigned and accepted a position in Grant County. He requested permission to fill the vacancy by offering it to a current part-time employee. The commissioners approved the request.

Land stated he is currently looking into the purchase of two new vehicles. He would like to purchase two SUV's for the K-9 units instead of purchasing cars. This would also be beneficial because it would enable the department to have access to 4-wheel drive vehicles. The base cost of each vehicle from City Ford in Columbia City would be \$26,134.25. That price does not include the cost of outfitting the vehicle with law enforcement equipment. Land recommended either trading in two cars and a jeep or selling them to the highest bidder once the new vehicles were purchased and equipped. He will find out the trade-in allowances before deciding how to proceed.

Keith Walters, County EMA Director was present with nothing to report.

Steve Downs, County Attorney presented Ordinance 2017-85-01 regulating traffic on county highways. Hauptert made a motion to approve Ordinance 2017-85-01. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Eppley made a motion to suspend the rules and proceed to a second reading. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Hauptert made a motion to approve Ordinance 2017-85-01 on second reading. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Downs stated he has checked into procedures for demolishing a building that has been declared unsafe by the Wabash County Health Department (January 17, 2017). The official designation is "unfit for human habitation." It can be accomplished in two ways.

1. By the health department through a court order.
2. By the plan commission through an unsafe building law.

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The commissioners took the possibilities under advisement pending more investigation of the options. Downs stated grants may be available to help pay for the razing of a building. Givens asked Downs to look into the possibility of acquiring grant funds to raze unsafe buildings.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director presented two license agreements for use of the Roann Covered Bridge for marriage ceremonies on both September 16 and September 23, 2017. Haupert made a motion to approve the agreements. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowance docket for 2/20/2017
2. Payroll claims and allowance for pay ending 2/11/2017. The commissioners approved the claims.

Review Items: IDEM Notice – Haupert Land Holding, LLC – Planned Construction CFO  
Unsafe building hearing – 38 Ross Ave, Wabash – March 2, 2017 @ 4:00p.m. at Wabash City Hall.

With no other business to come before the Board of Commissioners the meeting was adjourned. The commissioners will next meet on Monday, February 27, 2017.

Also present: Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Mackenzi Klemann and News Journal reporter David Fenker.