

May 15, 2017

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, May 15, 2017. Chairman 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 May 8, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Hauptert 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 presented:

1. Utility permit from Frontier Communications to bore across 50 N at 5221 W to restore copper service.
2. Utility permit from NIPSCO to install gas service to 11892 Ogden Road, North Manchester. One 4x4 bell hole will be dug in the right-of-way to connect service to the west side of the road.

Hauptert made a motion to approve both permits. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Martin presented engineer reports for two road reconstruction projects on which the commissioners had requested cost estimates. The reports are for review and to help determine on which projects to apply for funding. The reports contain a description of the projects, recommendations and total cost estimates.

1. 100 S between US 24 and Beauchamp Drive into the Wabash Industrial Park to straighten a curve and widen the road.
2. 1100 N between SR 13 and the railroad to level and widen the road for semi-truck traffic.

Martin stated that due to recent rainfall the planned inspection of 11 bridges on the 12 month inspection schedule was delayed. Those inspections are expected to start this week.

Bob Land, Wabash County Sheriff reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 78 inmates with 58 inmates housed at the Miami County Jail, 5 inmates at the Elkhart County Jail and 8 inmates at the Wells County Jail. Last week there were 25 transports to the DOC and 41 new book-ins. The peak population was 88.

Land stated the two new K-9 SUV's are now being used. After two weeks in service they have been deployed 18 times which involved 11 arrests.

Keith Walters, County EMA Director and Health Board Chairman presented paperwork for the appointment of Nick Hentgen to the health board (May 8, 2017). The commissioners signed the paperwork.

Steve Downs, County Attorney was present with nothing to report.

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

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowance docket for 5/15/2017
2. Payroll claims and allowance for pay ending 5/6/2017

The commissioners approved all claims.

Bob Ferguson, Roann Clerk-Treasurer presented a Town of Roann resolution stating the county and the town would jointly own the "Old School" in order to obtain a CDBG Blight Clearance Grant to demolish the building. Roann will be the lead applicant. The venture is 50/50 for the match. Ferguson will contact the auditor's office to work out the financial structure. He stated Roann has hired Kathleen Weissenberger to write the intent letter and complete the application for a total cost of \$1,500. Weissenberger will also write the grant. The cost is 20% of the total grant (which is the standard fee) pending the commissioners approval.

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The commissioners stated they would like him to proceed with the grant preparation and submission.

Eppley made a motion to approve the vacation of an alley in Urbana on second reading. (On May 8, 2017 the commissioners approved the vacation on first reading.) Haupert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Eppley made a motion to ratify changes to the Wabash County employee handbook which were approved on December 12, 2016. Haupert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

ACTION RATIFYING CHANGES TO THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

At its meeting held December 12, 2016, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved two changes to the County's employee handbook. One change was to the vacation earnings schedule (Section 303) and the other change was to sick leave benefits (Section 307). The minutes of that meeting do not reflect those changes in detail. So that the minutes reflect the changes in detail, the Commissioners now wish to ratify their action taken on December 12, 2016, as follows:

On motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously adopted, the Commissioners now ratify their action taken December 12, 2016, making the following changes to the employee handbook applicable to full-time employees:

Vacation Earning Schedule (Section 303)

Effective January 1, 2017, the vacation earning schedule will be as follows:

<u>YEARS OF ELIGIBLE SERVICE</u>	<u>VACATION DAYS EACH YEAR</u>
After 6 months	2 days
After 1 year	5 days
After 2 years	10 days
After 8 years	15 days
After 20 years	20 days

(This schedule will apply on each employee's full-time anniversary date beginning January 1, 2017.)

Sick Leave Benefits (Section 307)

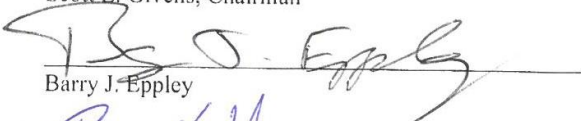
Effective January 1, 2017, sick leave benefits may be used for the illness or injury of both an employee or a member of the employee's immediate family.

The new policy states: Eligible employees may use sick leave benefits for an absence due to their own illness or injury, legal quarantine, or for an illness or injury in their immediate family. Immediate family means spouse, child or person who resides with and is dependent upon you for care and support.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
WABASH COUNTY



Scott E. Givens, Chairman

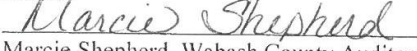


Barry J. Eppley



Brian K. Haupert

Attest:



Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor

Givens requested a motion at re-appoint Jean Gilbert to the public defender board for a three-year term which will end December 31, 2019. Eppley made a motion to re-appoint Jean Gilbert to the public defender board. Haupert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Sarah Lochner, County Chief Probation Officer requested permission to apply for a grant through the Indiana Office of Court Service for up to \$10,000 for problem solving courts. Lochner would like permission to apply for the grant for the drug

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court program. Hauptert made a motion to proceed with the application. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

With no other business to come before the Board of Commissioners the meeting was adjourned. The commissioners will next meet on Monday, May 22, 2017.

Also present: Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Mackenzi Klemann, News Journal reporter David Fenker, Wabash County Recorder Lori Draper, United Consulting representative Steve Jones, BF&S representative Toby Steffen and County Plan Director, Mike Howard.