

September 25, 2017

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, September 25, 2017. Chairman Scott E. Givens called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioners present: Givens, Brian H. Hauptert and Barry J. Eppley. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the September 18, 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 presented a utility permit from Indiana Fiber Network to run fiber cable along the east side of 400 E from Blue Star Highway to 150 N, then east on 150 N along the south side of the road to the cell tower on 150 N. Givens stated he would like to reduce the time frame for the completion of the projects. County Attorney Steve Downs and Martin will discuss procedures. Hauptert made the motion to approve the permit. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Martin requested permission to attend the County Bridge Conference at Purdue University on October 17 & 18. Commissioners approved the request.

Bob Land, Wabash County Sheriff reported that the Wabash County Jail is currently housing 91 inmates with 45 inmates being housed at the Miami County Jail and 4 inmates at the Elkhart County Jail. Last week, there were 17 new book-ins and 13 transports to the DOC. The peak population last week was 89.

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

Steve Downs, County Attorney presented an insurance claim for signatures in the amount of \$799.43 to be paid to Hunt, Suedhoff, Kalamaros LLP for legal services in regard to Stephanie Gottschalk whom, along with others were named in a lawsuit for her work with the county-sponsored CASA program. It was agreed with both the insurance company and the attorney general's office that the county would pay up to \$5,000 for her defense, prior to the attorney general's office taking over the case. There is some confusion concerning the liability of the CASA program workers who serve as volunteers, so Attorney Downs will be investigating the insurance coverage for volunteers. Eppley made a motion to approve the claim in the amount of \$799.43. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor was present with nothing to report.

Doug Bogert, Wabash County Animal Shelter Manager and Steve Hicks, Wabash County Animal Shelter Board President presented the 2017 year-to-date status report on the Animal Shelter. Currently, the shelter is over capacity; due in part to the recent hurricanes which have resulted in displaced animals being moved to other states.

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With no other business to come before the Board of Commissioners, the meeting was adjourned. The Commissioners will next meet on Monday, October 2, 2017. Also present: News Journal reporter David Fenker, Wabash County Central Dispatch director Sandy Beeks and DLZ representative Eric Wolf.