

November 20, 2017

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, November 20, 2017. Chairman Scott E. Givens called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with three commissioners present: Givens, Brian K. Haupert and Barry J. Eppley. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the November 13, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Haupert 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 was present with nothing to report.

Bob Land, Wabash County Sheriff reported that the Wabash County Jail is currently housing 81 inmates with 46 inmates at the Miami County Jail, 1 inmate at the Elkhart County Jail and 3 inmates at the Blackford County Jail. Last week there were 10 transports to other facilities and 21 new book-ins. The peak population was 86.

Land also stated:

1. The jail needs a new water heater. One has been purchased but not yet installed.
2. He is in the process of hiring two merit deputies and two jail officers. All four are to replace individuals; no new positions are being added.

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

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

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented the accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 11/20/2017. The commissioners approved the claims.

Hauptert made a motion to approve amending the lease agreement between Wabash County and the Wabash County Solid Waste District to contain a mutual release of liability. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Glen Butcher wanted to make sure that the Commissioners were aware of two items:

1. Indiana Fiber Network had a permit approved in December 2016 to run fiber optic cable along the south side of Blue Star Highway. (January 3, 2017). There is a two mile stretch where the cable has been run on the north side of the road.
2. Kerr Lock in Lagro is on the national historical landmark and the Wabash River Trail removed the toe path steps in order to build the walking bridge.

David Wamsley spoke on the Indiana Fiber Network project along Blue Star Highway. Wamsley stated that IFN has not followed the approved permit. The permit states IFN would run the fiber optic on the south side of Blue Star Highway

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but ran two miles on the north side. IFN also cut residential phone lines along that path. Most residences have been inconvenienced by IFN not following the permit. Wamsley would like to have IFN sanctioned for not following the permit and allow residences along the path to connect to the fiber optic at a fair price. The commissioners stated they would look into the alleged violations.

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

Also present: News Journal reporter David Fenker, Wabash County Chief Deputy Tyler Guenin, Wabash Area Plan director Mike Howard, Wabash County Central Dispatch director Sandy Beeks and Wabash County Treasurer LuAnn Layman.