

January 29, 2024

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, January 29, 2024. Chairman Jeff D. Dawes called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioners present: Dawes, Brian K. Hauptert, and Barry J. Eppley. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the January 22, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Beverly Ferry, CEO, Living Well in Wabash County CoA presented the 4th quarter 2023 5311 Transportation Grant request. Ferry also asked Dawes to sign a purchase agreement for two new vehicles.

Andrew Rossell, with AR Engineering requested via Zoom that the commissioners address the Redman rezone request which was previously presented to the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission gave it an unfavorable recommendation. Dawes read the unfavorable recommendation. Joseph Menna stated the intersection in question is in a floodplain and more traffic in that intersection would not be good. Menna requested the change in zoning not be approved. Hauptert made a motion to approve the unfavorable recommendation. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Mark Frantz, Wabash County Attorney presented Resolution 2024-85-01 Amending the Wabash County Handbook relating to the preservation of sick days for employees who become elected officials. Hauptert made a motion to approve the resolution. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

The Wabash County Board of Health requested the appointment of Ashlie Schlemmer to the board. Eppley made a motion to appoint Schlemmer to the Board of Health. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Dawes presented a task order with United Consulting to provide engineering services for the Garl Eppley Drain. Commissioner Eppley explained that Wabash County, in collaboration with the City of Wabash, is looking to build a retention pond in the area of McKibben Street. Eppley made a motion to approve the task order in the amount of \$125,600 to be paid from the EDIT funds. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Hauptert reported due to Keith Gillenwater leaving the Wabash area, the commissioners need to replace him on the County Building Corporation. Hauptert made a motion to appoint Tenille Zartman to the County Building Corporation. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Cole Wyatt, Wabash County Highway Superintendent presented:

1. A utility permit for Sweetser telephone to install service at 1200 S west of State Road 13. Hauptert made a motion to approve the utility permit. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Permission to apply for the 2024-1 Community Crossings Grants. One for pavement on Meridian Road for \$126,081.81 and mill and overlay on the streets in Somerset for \$1,039,772.65. The county match is 25%. Eppley made a motion to approve application. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Tyler Guenin, Wabash County Sheriff's Department, presented the weekly jail report. There were 75 inmates with 6 additional in Miami County Jail, 17 in the Tipton County Jail, 19 in the Cass County Jail and 25 in the Fulton County Jail. Last week there were 15 book-ins and 5 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 75 with the total prisoner count being 140. Guenin reported the jail had fewer leaks during the rain over the weekend.

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Marcie Shepherd, County Auditor, presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 01/29/2024. Eppley made a motion to approve the claims and allowances as presented. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Payroll claims and allowances plus withholdings for pay period ending 01/20/2024. Eppley made a motion to approve the claims. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote

Dawes asked if there were any ADA or Title VI concerns; none were heard.

With no other public comment or other business to come before the Board of Commissioners, the meeting was adjourned. The commissioners will next meet on Monday, February 5, 2024.

The commissioners reviewed the following: IDEM Notice: Hauptert Farms Inc. Approval - Amendment

Also present: *In person*: Shelly Baucco, Louella Krom, Bill Burnsworth, Nicky Burnsworth, Tyler Niccum, Cheryl Ross, Marcella Palmer, Barry Stroup, Jennifer Draper, Jennifer Menna, Matthew Bornean, Patsy Favorite, Scott Hopkin and Dave Nelson. *Via Zoom*: Amanda's iPhone, CAR, Chris Hickman, Connie, KBarker, Suzanne Peebles, bhegel and Ashlie.

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Jeff D. Dawes
Chairman



Barry J. Eppley
Vice-Chairman



Brian K. Hauptert

Attest: 
Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor