

MARCH 5, 2012

Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, March 5, 2012. Chairman Brian K. Hauptert called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present: Hauptert, Barry J. Eppley, and Scott E. Givens. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway. The minutes of the February 27, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Givens made a motion to approve the minutes as written; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 3-0 vote.

Susan Stephan, Program Coordinator and Executive Director of Wabash County Soil and Water Conservation District:

1. Introduced Wabash County SWCD Board Members: Robert Hettmansperger, Rob Shellhamer, and Christian Rosen. Stephan also introduced Nan Hammel who was hired through the Indiana State Department of Agriculture and will be working at the SWCD.
2. Stated the IRS requires taxes be withheld from per diem pay for the board members. Stephan requested permission to have the county process their payroll at no direct cost to the county. Board members are paid monthly but SWCD could remit quarterly, in advance, to the county. Auditor Ridgeway stated she and Payroll Deputy Linda Conrad agree this would not be a problem. Commissioners unanimously approved the SWCD Board per diem be processed through county payroll.
3. Invited Commissioners to the Annual Wabash County SWCD Meeting on Thursday, March 8th.
4. Hettmansperger stated the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in conjunction with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, are implementing a project entitled Conservation Cropping Systems for Soil Health and Productivity. This will be a three (3) year project starting September 1, 2012. Currently the IASWCD and the NRCS are working on a grant for funding. It would establish four (4) main "Hubs" throughout Indiana to create, demonstrate, and quantify findings on soil health. The Wabash County Farm has been considered as a viable placement for one of these "Hubs." Hettmansperger stated he wanted Commissioners to be aware of this opportunity for Wabash County. Eppley stated this would be an excellent use of the County Farm land and an excellent opportunity for WCSWD as well as the Wabash community. Hettmansperger stated a three (3) year land contract would need to be implemented if the County Farm is chosen. Commissioners requested all lease documents be submitted to County Attorney Steve Downs for review.
5. Hettmansperger stated Susan Stephan has been a great asset to the SWCD and extended his appreciation to her for all her hard work.

John Martin, Highway Superintendent:

1. Requested permission to accept Salt Bids on April 9, 2012 at 10:00 A.M. Commissioners unanimously approved.

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2. Presented a request for "blind drive" signage on Old SR 15 north of 500 South. Commissioners unanimously approved request and asked Downs to amend the current sign ordinance. Downs agreed.

Wabash County Sheriff Bob Land stated the average daily jail population for the week ending March 4, 2012 was 86.85; one (1) inmate is housed at the Miami County Jail.

Bob Brown, EMA and Central Dispatch Director:

1. Stated he will be attending a Homeland Security meeting in Fort Wayne on Thursday, March 8th regarding the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
2. Stated a Storm Spotters class will be held on March 15th.
3. Stated Severe Weather Week is March 18th-24th. He will present a Severe Weather Proclamation to the Commissioners at next week's meeting.

Steve Downs, County Attorney:

1. Continues to work on the trash dumping ordinance; penalty increases.
2. Continues to work on an amendment to the K2-Spice ordinance increasing penalties from \$1,000 per offense up to but not to exceed \$10,000. There currently are no cases for review at the county level.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator:

1. Presented a flyer from Gallagher Benefit Services regarding an Employee Benefit Consortium which will be held in Wabash on Friday, March 23rd.
2. Stated Terry LeMaster of The Noisemaker is present to review the new sound system in the Commissioners' meeting room. Training will be held this week for individuals who may be using the system.
3. Stated an announcement will be attached to paychecks on Wednesday, March 7th regarding meetings to be held March 15th to explain changes to the employee health insurance coverage effective April 1, 2012.

Wabash County Surveyor Cheri Slee stated on September 12, 2011 the Commissioners agreed to obtain a \$130,000 loan for the Grossnickle Drain Reconstruction Project contingent on approval of the \$500,000 Community Focus Fund Grant. That grant was awarded to Wabash County on February 10, 2012. Slee requested permission to now move forward with obtaining the loan. She presented a letter for the Commissioners to sign and give to Crossroads Bank acknowledging their intent. Commissioners reviewed and signed the letter.

Jeff Hobson, Director of Community Corrections, stated at the February 17th Community Correction Quarterly Advisory Board meeting, the board approved a request to raise the amount the county disburses toward the cost of the pre-trial home detention expense from \$5.25 to \$10 per person per day. Hobson stated CC began maintaining the pre-trial home detention in 2007. Since that time, the county assists with just the cost of the home detention equipment which is

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\$5.25 per person per day. Hobson stated the cost to individuals for this program is \$10 per day and CC would like to increase the cost to the county by \$4.75 per day per person. Reasons for the requests are (a) because individuals are on the program for an extended number of days; (b) the increase in gas prices and (c) the increase in expenses for officers who assist with house checks. Attorney Steve Downs stated the original ordinance needs to be reviewed. Hobson stated he would submit the original ordinance for Down's review. Commissioners will take under advisement.

Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway:

1. Presented the Payroll Claims and Allowance Docket for pay period ended 3/03/12. Givens made a motion to approve; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Presented the Accounts Payable Claims and Allowance Docket as of 3/05/12. Commissioners unanimously approved.
3. Presented the Tiede, Metz & Downs invoice totaling \$1,873 for February 2012. Givens made a motion to approve; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 3-0 vote.
4. Presented a request to increase a county credit card limit from \$500 to \$1,500 for Commissioner's Custodian Dick Smith. Eppley made a motion to approve; his motion was seconded by Givens and passed by a 3-0 vote.
5. Requested permission to attend the North Regional Auditor's Training Conference to be held March 14th. Ridgeway stated she would also like two (2) deputies to attend. Commissioners unanimously approved.

Items for Commissioners' review:

Hoosier Heartland Corridor luncheon – April 10th Camden, Indiana

Commissioners recessed at 9:45 A.M. to attend the Drainage Board meeting and re-convened at 11:00 A.M.

Brent Siebenthal, P.E., President of Wessler Engineering, presented a contract between Wabash County and Wessler Engineering Inc. for the engineering portion of the Grossnickle Drain Reconstruction Project. Givens made a motion to approve the contract with Wessler Engineering; his motion was seconded by Givens, passed by a 3-0 vote and was attested by Wabash County Clerk of the Courts Elaine Martin.

Hauptert, as representative of the Region III-A Economic Development and Regional Planning Commission, presented an agreement between Wabash County and Region III-A for the oversight and management of the Grossnickle Drain Project Grant. Eppley made a motion to approve the agreement with Region III-A; his motion was seconded by Givens and passed by a 3-0 vote.

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No other business, the meeting recessed. The Commissioners will meet on Monday, March 12, 2012 in the meeting room on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse starting at 9:00 A.M.

*Approved as written – March 12, 2012