

FEBRUARY 28, 2005

The Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the former Circuit Court Room, Wabash County Courthouse, following the Wabash County Council meeting. Chairman Les Templin called the meeting to order with all members present. Minutes for the February 22th meeting were approved as written, moved by Brian, seconded by Darle, approved by a 3 to 0 vote.

Wabash County Sheriff Leroy Striker reported a jail population of 87 in jail today. He also reported on the progress of the Community Corrections remodeling and his selection process for replacement deputies.

Highway Supervisor Larry Rice reported a request from Jim Dale to replace a tile on 800 N west of 13. Dale has agreed to furnish the tile if the county would replace it. On a motion by Darle and seconded by Brian, the board voted 3-0 to follow Rice's recommendations.

Rice requested permission to replace a backhoe and on a motion by Brian, seconded by Darle, the motioned carried by a 3-0 vote. The Commissioners set a date for bids for the replacement backhoe to be received on April 11.

The board was informed by Rice that the Old State Road 15 project had not been selected for the quality award this year.

In other business, the commissioners reviewed the Wabash Tourism Commission Report, Custodian hours for Dick Smith, and information on the Heritage Trust Project.

The board discussed the renewal of the employee hospital insurance policy which is up on April 1st. Proposals gathered by Strategic Health Plans Corporation were reviewed. A motion was made by Brian, seconded by Darle and passed 3-0 to accept the low proposal of Group Administrators for the new policy year. Commissioners also set March 14th for an employee insurance meeting to discuss the present plan as is and present design change options for discussion.

County Attorney Tom Mattern updated the board on the condemnation suit hearing continuance on the Old State Road 15 project and the Winter 2005 Wedcor newsletter article thanking the commissioners and council for their support. He stated he would be in touch with the Wabash city attorney about the former Swinger station property. He also will research the proposed Health department lodging ordinance.

The commissioners signed the appointment certificate for Thomas J. Pinson to the Alcoholic Beverage Board for a one year term.

Bob Brown, Emergency Management Director, presented a proclamation for Severe Weather Awareness Week to be declared March 6-12. The proclamation was passed on a motion by Brian, seconded by Darle and a 3-0 vote. Brown also updated the commissioners on a grant received from Community Emergency Training to be used for team equipment, and also a possible Homeland Security grant to be received.

John Bry, the new Executive Director of Wabash Marketplace, introduced himself to the board and presented his agency's organizational design and incentives. He also discussed possible grant funding available for the preservation of our historic courthouse.

No other business, the meeting recessed. The next meeting will be Monday, March 7th at 9:00 A.M.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Haupert

ATTEST: _____
Jane E. Ridgeway, Auditor