

MAY 9, 2005

The Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. on May 9, 2005, in the former Circuit Court Room, Wabash County Courthouse.

Chairman Les Templin called the meeting to order with Darle Dawes present and Brian Hauptert absent.

Minutes for the May 2nd meeting were approved as written. Moved by Darle, seconded by Les, approved by a 2 to 0 vote.

Highway Supervisor Larry Rice reported that the new stop signs are up creating a four-way stop at the intersection of 200E and 250S, as designated by ORDINANCE III, approved by a motion by Darle, second by Les and a 2-0 vote. Rice then presented a request to bury cable from SBC along 650E south from 780S to the Salamonie Dam road. The request was approved as recommended. Rice also reported a highway department personnel matter for an employee taking family leave. Following discussion of repair needed to the concrete in the highway garage prior to the county fair, the commissioners instructed Rice to proceed with getting estimates for the work required. Also reported was a request from Jack Weekly of 3358 S. Old St.Rd. concerning altering a side ditch and installing a grate on his property following the Phase II construction. The supervisor recommended that the work would not create a problem to the county, but will check with Butler, Fairman & Seufert about the situation. Les asked Rice to check on a stop sign at 700S - 550W which was leaning and probably caught by farm equipment.

Wabash County Sheriff Leroy Striker reported 94 inmates in jail today. In response to the commissioners voting on May 2nd to enter into an agreement with Pay Trust Solutions for credit cards to be used for bond payments, Striker said he would be willing to switch to Pay Trust Solutions also to put the whole county under one plan. Striker also reported that Community Corrections is still waiting on hardware and are now planning to have an open house the end of May. In another matter, Striker disclosed that he had been sent notice of a lawsuit filed by the Estate of Christa Moore against the Sheriff, the Sheriff's department and the County Jail. Striker confirmed the second advertisement of ORDINANCE I - creating a 35 mph speed zone on Old State Road 24 West; that barricades had been found at no cost to the county to be placed at the Wabash Alloys driveway and that the state was checking into the situation at Old State Road 15 S and State Road 124 E for possible new traffic signage.

Commissioner Attorney Tom Mattern reported on the progress of the court appointed appraisers for the eminent domain case connected with the Old State Road 15 S. Phase II project and that they would be meeting again this afternoon. He reported that after the report is in the commissioners can either accept or reject the appraisal.

Wabash County Recorder Nancy Gribben was present to ask the commissioners permission to have the antique clock in her office cleaned and adjusted at a cost of \$35. Darle moved to proceed, seconded by Les and approved on a 2-0 vote.

Extension agent Nancy Radabaugh was present to ask for permission to purchase a new duplicating machine as the current machine is broken and going to be repaired with a used motor for now. The commissioners advised her to go ahead and get three quotes for a new duplicator and that she will also need to file for an additional appropriation from the council.

Don Magnus of Liberty Mills asked the commissioners for help because county officers had red-tagged vehicles on his property that he uses in his junk business and that he feels the prosecutor's office is unfairly pursuing him because of a former child support claim against him. He stated that the State Department of Revenue was holding the titles to some of his vehicles and would not release them without the prosecutor's permission. His court-appointed attorney is not helping him to straighten out the situation and he is legally disabled with four children to support from his only livelihood of selling junk. He is also in dispute with the planning commission about his property lines and the county's right-of-way at his place of business and said that even though he has filed 29 theft & property destruction reports the prosecutor will not help him. The commissioners agreed to talk with the Planning Commission, the Sheriff and the Prosecutor but suggested to Magnus that he needs to seek his attorney's advice as the Board of Commissioners have no authority to tell the county departments and officials what to do.

Courthouse Custodian Ron Harris reported that the air conditioning was not working properly and was advised to call Quality Electric again to have it checked. It was also reported that the courthouse elevator was not working properly today and the repair service would be called immediately.

Toby Steffen of Butler, Fairman & Seufert was present with an agreement for Construction Inspection for the Old State Road 15 South Phase II project. Darle moved to accept the agreement, seconded by Les and approved by a 2-0 vote.

Also reviewed were: Payroll Claims for May 9th.

No other business, the meeting recessed. The next meeting will be May 16th, in the former Circuit Court Room, Wabash County Courthouse.

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Lester D. Templin, Chairman

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Darle V. Dawes

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Brian K. Hauptert

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jane E. Ridgeway, Auditor