

## OCTOBER 11, 2005

The Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session on October 11, 2005 in the former Circuit Courtroom of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman of the Commissioners Les Templin called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes for the October 3rd meeting were approved as written on a motion by Brian, seconded by Darle and approved unanimously by a 3-0 vote.

Commissioner Attorney Tom Mattern discussed a contractual agreement for the Local Public Health Coordinator between Keith Walters, the Wabash County Health Board, and the Wabash County Commissioners. Mattern revised the contract submitted previously to the board by Jane Skeans and Lori Foust, County Health Nurses. Mattern stated he was not pleased that the contract presented to the Commissioners called for compensation to be paid in "full amount" of the State Health Department grant from Homeland Security funds. He feels that the compensation should be "spelled out" by an exact dollar amount. He also said he had revised the contract as an Independent Contractor agreement rather than an employer/employee agreement. Following discussion, the board decided that the contract would need to have a break-down on the grant fund expenses as to supplies, equipment and a monthly total dollar amount for contractual services. The grant agreement would also need to be made a part of the document as the performance based grant would terminate the contract if not approved by the state.

Highway Supervisor Larry Rice gave the following weekly report to the board:

- 1) The county has still not received a notice to proceed for the Old State Road 15 South Phase II project although all documents have been received by the state.
- 2) Rice has not set a date with railroad and INDOT representatives to discuss the railroad crossing on 50E at Treaty. He stated that the county should prepare a statistical report on the intersection for the past five years.
- 3) Rice informed the Commissioners that he and Highway Foreman Phil Amones would be looking at new snow and ice removal equipment.
- 4) Asked if the board had made a decision on the Bridge Inventory and Inspection proposals received at last week's meeting, the Commissioners discussed the proposals. Brian moved to accept the United Consulting Engineers and Architects of Indianapolis proposal based on experience with the firm and recommendations from other county commissioners who advised it was wise to alternate companies for such inspections. The motion was seconded by Darle and approved by a 3-0 vote of the board.

5) Rice also presented recommendations for vacancies in the highway department. On a motion by Brian, seconded by Darle and a 3-0 vote, the board approved hiring two new employees.

Wabash County Sheriff Leroy Striker reported 101 inmates in jail today and was asked if he could report the population of the jail as an average per week rather than actual day of a meeting. He stated that he thinks having a full-time prosecutor after the first of the year should help to move the court case load forward and will be a definite advantage in lowering the jail count. Striker also presented a claim for E-911 funds for emergency repairs done by J&K Communications, Inc. to reestablish fire tones south of the city. The repair invoice was for \$366.00 and was approved by a 3-0 vote on a motion by Brian which was seconded by Darle. He also stated that the air conditioner was repaired.

Wabash Emergency Management Director Bob Brown discussed the possibility of using Title V educational training program employees through "Experience Works" to help with staffing if needed in county offices. Following discussion, it was decided to invite the local program director to attend a future meeting to explain the program.

Clerk of the Courts Lori Draper reported that the carpeting in her office had been repaired and was much better. She also stated that the judges had agreed to provide some needed storage space in the judicial center for some of her files that need to be moved soon and that with the additional security there she will be able to utilize some of the existing open shelving and will not need as many new file cabinets. Following the permission granted last week to purchase new PCs for scanning she has found that she will be able to pay for part of the expense from her Clerk's Incentive 4-D funds.

The Auditor requested two Additional Appropriation Requests to be presented to the County Council on October 24<sup>th</sup>. One request is \$100,000 from the General Fund-Auditor budget for purchasing new financial program software, installation and training for the Auditor's and Treasurer's offices. This will replace the fund accounting program on the old VAX operating system purchased in 1987 (which will not be supported by Manatron after December 31, 2006) with an updated windows based operating system. The second request is from the General Fund-Commissioners budget for \$50,000 to purchase new computer hardware for the Auditor, Treasurer, Surveyor and Assessor offices not only for the financials but a new Tax Billing System (which will need to be removed from the VAX system by next year also). Both requests were approved and signed by the Commissioners.

The Courthouse Second Floor Remodeling project was reviewed and discussed as well as details of the impending office moves and time constraints.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the Payroll claims allowance and docket for the pay period ending October 7<sup>th</sup>.

No other business the meeting recessed. The next meeting will be Monday, October 17, 2005 at 9:00 A.M.