

February 5, 2024

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, February 5, 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 29, 2024, meeting was reviewed. Hauptert made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Alex Downard of Imagine One 85 and Zach Sand gave an update on the Broadband Deployment for NLC (Next Level Connections) round 4 funding. Sand explained for the NLC there is 80 million in grant funding to be disbursed to Indiana entities for broadband expansion. The second tranche of funding is for the BEAD (Broadband Expansion Access Deployment) program, 868 million in grant funding will be available for grant applications. Application is due in April for the NLC. The application process is a 3-4-week process and it will aide in getting approved for the grant if the County is a partner. Sand and Downard requested the Commissioners sign a letter of support that will be submitted with the grant applications. Due to the competitive application process, they would like the County to match in some way, (funding or in-kind). Dawes stated he feels broadband is needed for telecommuting, online schooling, and telehealth. Downard said this is the new utility that everyone needs. Commissioners signed the letter of support.

Jeremy Burton and Matt Kelly from Comcast, reviewed the project Imagine One 85 is proposing. Kelly shared a map showing the area they are planning on running fiber to. The expansion will include small towns in the County such as Lagro, LaFontaine and Roann. The goal is to be in all seven townships. Comcast feels Wabash County is a good county to invest in.

Cole Wyatt, Wabash County Highway Superintendent, presented a utility permit for NIPSCO to repair service at 11492 N 392 E. Eppley made a motion to approve the utility permit. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Marcie Shepherd, County Auditor, presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 02/05/2024. Hauptert made a motion to approve the claims and allowances as presented. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Advance draw to the City of Wabash for a TIF in the amount of \$200,000. Hauptert made the motion to approve the claim. Eppley 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 12, 2024.

The Commissioners reviewed the following: IDEM Notice: Water Quality- Buckeye Pipe Line Company- Issue of final permit.


Also present: *In person*: Shelly Baucco, Josh Petruniw, Louella Krom, Bill Burnsworth, Nicky Burnsworth, Tyler Niccum, Cheryl Ross, Marcella Palmer, Barry Stroup, Chris Hickman and Dave Nelson. *Via Zoom*: Phone, Connie, KBarker, Don Jervis, Theda Metzger, JadeH, 826, and Cathy S.

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WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



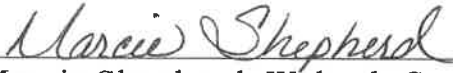
Brian K. Hauptert



Jeff D. Dawes
Chairman



Barry J. Eppley
Vice-Chairman

Attest: 

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor