

FEBRUARY 14, 2005

The Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the former Circuit Court Room, Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Les Templin called the meeting to order with all members present. Minutes for the February 7th meeting were approved as written, moved by Brian, seconded by Darle, approved by a 3 to 0 vote.

Highway Supervisor Larry Rice reported only one county road was still closed due to high water. Rice stated that Bridge 505 over Ferry Street has been approved for federal financing and will soon be let for construction bids. Rice also updated the board on the other current projects: Phase II of Old State Road 15 and replacement of Bridge 10 at the twin bridges; 950 S and the rehab of Bridges 11 and 910. Chairman Les Templin signed the certification letter for the 950 S project.

The commissioners also unanimously approved a request by Verizon to bury cable in front of 2221 S 75 E.

Sheriff Leroy Striker reported a total of 87 inmates in jail today, and that the work on the Community Corrections area is progressing well.

Bob Brown, local Emergency Management Director, reported that the Weather Service has requested a change for the flood level of the Wabash River at the Wabash Street Bridge 14' instead of 12'. He stated that he was discussing the matter with Mayor Vanlandingham, other City officials and Highway Supervisor Rice. Asked if this was a commissioner decision, Brown replied "Ultimately, yes." He will continue to research the issue and report back to the board. Brown also reported Public Safety Grant monies of \$1700. for computer purchases has been received and turned over to the Auditor.

Commissioners discussed the progress on cleaning out the old law library on the second floor of the courthouse and the eventual move of the Surveyor's office upstairs to allow more room for the EMA in the basement for their Central Command Center. In a related matter, County Extension Agent, Nancy Radabaugh was present to inquire about the moving of the Extension office to the second floor also.

County Health Nurse Jane Skeans was present to report to the commissioners about the progress of obtaining bid estimates for repair work on a wall of the health offices. Commissioners asked her to get at least two bids. This repair is to be paid from the Health Maintenance of Tobacco Settlement funds.

Circuit Court Clerk Lori Draper updated the Commissioners on the Somerset Town Board working toward making the community building handicap assessable as required for voting.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the Annual Financial Report for Wabash County for the year ending December 31, 2004, and discussed CEDIT and Wedcor funding.

Doug Lehman, Wabash City Attorney, was present along with Bruce Carter, environmental consultant, to discuss the city's plans for clean-up of some remaining brownfield areas. He reported that the city is working with the Redelopment Commission and the property owners of the abandoned Swinger gas station to clean up this area and make it available to be marketed. They stated that Phase I and Phase II site assessment studies have been done with grants. With the county's cooperation and the waiving of any liens against the property by other lien holders, they would like to apply for grant money for clean-up. The Board of Commissioners expressed an interest in wanting the property to be cleaned up and back on the tax rolls rather than surplus property. They stated they would research the situation with County Attorney Tom Mattern and other county officials, including County Treasurer LuAnn Layman and County Auditor Jane Ridgeway. Lehman stated he would continue to work on a resolution of the matter and be in contact with the county soon.

In other business, the Commissioners re-appointed Tom Pinson to the Alcohol and Beverage Commission for a one-year term, moved by Brian and seconded by Les.

No other business, the meeting recessed. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 22nd at 9:00 A.M. due to the President's Day holiday next week.

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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