

MARCH 7, 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 28th meeting were approved as written, moved by Brian, seconded by Darle, approved by a 3 to 0 vote.

County Attorney Tom Mattern reported to the commissioners on the condemnation case on Old State Road 15 which has been moved to April 21, 2005 at 3:00 P.M. He also reviewed the boards options regarding the letter from Eldon Stoops concerning the Speicherville alley, the proposed ordinances from the County Health Board, and his meeting with the city on the former Swinger station property.

Highway Supervisor Larry Rice requested the commissioners sign the Notice to Bidders set for April 11th at 10:00 A.M. for the purchase of a new backhoe. They also reviewed an agreement with the railroad on Bridge 208 and signed it. Rice reported that the pre-construction meeting for Bridge 13 is the next step for that project. The county has not received an invoice for their share of the project costs but Baker and Schultz is ready to start as soon as that is processed. Rice and the commissioners discussed repair work needed to be done on the exterior of the highway garage building.

Toby Steffan of Butler, Fairman and Seufert, Inc. discussed the Bridge 10 project and asked the commissioners to sign a letter to set the letting date for bids in June.

Wabash County Sheriff Leroy Striker reported a jail population of 95 this morning and also reported on the Community Corrections remodeling progress. Striker also reported on three new hires to be approved at the Merit Board meeting on Wednesday. He would like to send all three to the academy for training this spring and summer.

Gerald Hopkins was present with a proposal to the commissioners to install four high pressure sodium lights on the top of the courthouse. These lights have been designed and built by The Courthouse Lighting Project Committee, made up of local citizens and businessmen. Brian moved for approval of the proposal, seconded by Darle and passed by a 3-0 vote. Brian also thanked Mr. Hopkins, his committee and Mary Ellen Rudisel for all of their work and accomplishment.

Bob Brown, EMA director, reported that he, Larry Rice, representatives of the city of Wabash and FEMA officials will be meeting about disaster relief this afternoon. He also asked the board to approve a SEMA dual grant for backpacks for training members. Brian moved for approval, Darle seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Susan Jackson Reed was present to discuss property she owns which has been listed in the Tax Sale. County Treasurer Luann Layman conferred with the commissioners about the property and the delinquent taxes owed on it. Following discussion and the advice of County Attorney Tom Mattern, the board recommended that Ms Reed should try to obtain a loan to pay the back taxes current from a bank before May 10th.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from Blue & Company, a proposal on tuck-pointing the highway building by Atlas Building Services, Inc and discussed a proposal from BJS Landscaping to submit a plan for the courthouse. All will be taken under advisement.

Amy Haupt-Jarvis of OneAmerica Retirement Services meet with the commissioners to present Deferred Compensation Plan options that should soon be available to county employees.

Jay Harvey of Strategic Health Plans along with Carol Sipes of his company and Barbara Weida of Group Administrators were present to discuss with the commissioners and the auditor a schedule of planning for transition of Group Administrators as the county's new TPA beginning April 1st. County Auditor Jane Ridgeway will assist them in coordinating meetings with all employees for enrollment during the last week of March. An Employee Representative Insurance Meeting has been set for March 14th at 3:00 P.M. to discuss possible options in insurance coverage.

Jeff Milner and Jason Gilbert of PayTrust Solutions presented their company's services to provide counties with the ability to accept credit cards for payment of fines and fees, bonds and taxes. Following their presentation the commissioners stated they would discuss some of these options with department heads that would be involved and would take this proposal under advisement.

No other business, the meeting recessed. The next meeting will be Monday, March 14th at 9:00 A.M.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Haupt

ATTEST: _____
Jane E. Ridgeway, Auditor