

OCTOBER 17, 2011

Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, October 17, 2011. Chairman Scott E. Givens called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present: Givens, Barry J. Eppley, and Brian K. Hauptert. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Auditor Jane Ridgeway. The minutes of the October 10, 2011 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written; his motion was seconded by Hauptert and passed with a 3-0 vote.

John Martin, Highway Superintendent:

1. Stated the State has let bids for Bridge 61; 700 W over Bachelor Creek.
2. Stated bump removal was completed on 300 E and on Old SR 24 west of Wabash.

Bob Land, Wabash County Sheriff:

1. Presented a jail report for the week ending 10/16/11. The average daily population was 80.85; five (5) inmates are housed at the Miami County Jail.
2. Presented a report from the Criminal Code Violation Committee with the number of prisoners which may be returned to each county in Indiana if the proposed Class D felony changes are implemented. Wabash County could have an increase of 44 inmates; no final decision has yet been made.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator,

1. Presented a change order totaling \$2,200 from Searce Rudisel Architects, Inc. for Kroft Construction. It was for adding insulation above the ceiling of the Commissioners' meeting room. Givens signed the change order.
2. Stated filming of the movie Morality continued yesterday (Sunday) at the courthouse for approximately four (4) hours.

Bob Brown, EMA and Central Dispatch Director:

1. Introduced Heartland Career Center student RJ Walden. He will be job shadowing in EMA on Monday and Tuesday of this week.
2. Requested permission to update certification for employees in CPR and the use of the automatic defibrillator located at the courthouse. The cost is \$40 per person for five (5) individuals for a total of \$200. Brown stated this was originally funded through a grant but is now a cost to the county. Ridgeway stated she would review possible sources to fund the cost.
3. Stated registrations are being taken for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class which will start next Tuesday evening in LaFontaine.

Jane Ridgeway, Wabash County Auditor:

1. Presented the Payroll Claims and Allowance for Pay Period ended 10-15-11. Jane Skeans' vacation payout from the Rainy Day Fund is included in this payroll. Commissioners unanimously approved and signed.

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2. Presented the Accounts Payable Claims and Allowance Docket for 10-17-11. Commissioners unanimously approved and signed.
3. Presented an amendment to the SRI Service Master Agreement. SRI conducts the annual Tax Sale which will be held Thursday, October 20, 2011. Ridgeway stated the change is in regard to the E-Verify program from Homeland Security. The amendment requires that SRI not knowingly employ or subcontract with any firm who employs individuals not authorized to work in the United States. Hauptert made a motion to approve the amendment; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 3-0 vote.
4. Presented the 2011 Government Units Survey from US Bureau of Census. Ridgeway stated she would see that the survey is completed.
5. Presented two (2) quotes on behalf of Circuit Court Reporter Christa Stroup who is in court this morning. The Circuit Court is requesting replacement of the small refrigerator in their jury room with a standard sized refrigerator to accommodate meals for jurors.
 - a. Wabash Appliance & Electronics - \$499
 - b. Oswalt Thomas - \$489Eppley made a motion to approve the purchase of a standard size refrigerator from Oswalt Thomas at \$489; his motion was seconded by Hauptert and passed by a 3-0 vote.
6. Presented a request from Wabash Marketplace to hold the Annual Holiday Lighting Request to be held on the courthouse lawn November 18th – Commissioners unanimously approved.

Soil and Water Conservation Board members Rob Shellhamer, Christian Rosen and Robert Hettmansperger were present with Joe Updike:

1. Introduced Susan (Susie) Stephan as the new Executive Director of Soil and Water Conservation Program.
2. Requested permission to waive the 15% probationary pay reduction for Stephan for the first three (3) months. Commissioners stated this was previously shortened from six (6) months to 90 days. It is to allow for a training period and to ensure that funds are not depleted from the wage portion of the department's budget as the current employee continues to be paid while the new employee is also being paid. This is a county policy stipulation and making exceptions would not be fair to other employees. Commissioners denied the request.
3. Hettmansperger stated other county employee bonds are paid by the county this position has been covered by Soil and Water. Ridgeway confirmed this statement. Hettmansperger requested that the Commissioners cover the cost of the bond for Stephan's position. Commissioners unanimously approved. Stephan presented the invoice for the current bond totaling \$75 and stated a new bond will be issued in her name.

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Items for Commissioners' review:

Auditor's Financial Report and County Treasurer's Monthly Report for September 2011

Monthly Report – Clerk of the Courts – September 2011

County Council Packets for October 24, 2011 Meeting – including 16 line statement

CAFO/CFO Application Submittal – Kevin Bechtold

Roann Bridge Wedding Liability Agreement signed and approved.

Reminder of Webinar with Larry DeBoer regarding Tax Caps – Monday, October 24th at 1:30 P.M.

Ken Jones, Wightman Petrie Inc., Stan Bagley, Laketon Area Regional Sewer District member and Jennifer Scott, Wabash County Health Department Environmental Specialist, updated Commissioners on the Laketon Area Sewer District Project:

1. Jones stated he will be attending the Laketon Regional Sewer District meeting on Thursday, October 20th at 6:30 P.M. in the Pleasant Township Fire Station.
2. Aerial photography has been ordered and will be completed in mid to late November after the leaves are off the trees.
3. The waste water plant in Laketon will be reviewed soon; following this site visit the Environmental Phase I will be completed.
4. The committee is continuing to try to obtain the minimum number of responses required for the income study. The USDA has set a threshold of 142 responses from residents. Jones stated that number is representative of 50% of the population in the Laketon area. Income level determines whether the grant is approved for 35%, 45% or up to 75%; which in turn determines the monthly fees to residents. Jones stated there is no deadline on submission of the responses but the sooner the better to keep the project on track, ensure proper funding and to be completed in a timely manner. Bagley stated approximately 100 responses have been received. Jones and Bagley both stated strategies will be discussed at the LARSD meeting to ensure acquisition of the needed responses. Bagley stated it is important that this be completed or it could be a much more difficult process with regard to the State citation received by Wabash County.
5. The environmental pre-application for USDA is still to be completed. RCAP covered the cost of this process but there is a \$1,900 fee for the archeological study of which Jones was not previously aware. This is a reimbursable expense by the USDA upon completion of the project. Jones stated this amount is only one quote for the work that needs to be completed. Commissioners requested that Jones acquire a second quote. Eppley made a motion to approve the expense for the study, once a second quote is obtained, for up-to \$1,900 and to present a Transfer Request to Council; his motion was seconded by Haupert and passed by a 3-0 vote.
6. Presented a Professional Service Proposal; for pre-design services for Wabash County unincorporated towns with regard to future protocol for waste water treatment and the role the current Regional Area Sewer District will play. Commissioners will take under advisement.

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No other business, the meeting recessed. The Commissioners will meet on Monday, October 24, 2011 in the meeting room on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse starting at 9:00 A.M.

*Approved as written – October 24, 2011