

NOVEMBER 28, 2011

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Wabash County Commissioners met in Executive Session on Monday, November 28, 2011 at 8:30 A.M. in the Courthouse Meeting Room, second floor, to discuss economic development matters. Bill Konyha, President and CEO of Wabash County EDG and Steve Downs, County Attorney met with the Commissioners and the Auditor prior to the regular

REGULAR SESSION

Wabash County Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, November 28, 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 November 21, 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.

Dr. Jeffrey Pyle, Wabash County Health Board President, presented a Homeland Security Public Health Preparedness Grant budget for 2012. Dr. Pyle stated the health department has submitted a proposed expense outline request to the State. The main expense will be for three (3) laptop computers to be used for on-site health department nurse investigations and field work for the food division. Dr. Pyle stated currently all paperwork is currently done by hand in the field for both departments and then entered into the computer at the office. The use of computers will allow for one (1) time entry. Other items included in the expense outline are storage lockers, travel expense and IT support. Dr. Pyle stated the county will not need to extend funds prior to reimbursement by the State as in the past and that all funds need to be spent by August 2012. Dr. Pyle stated he would present his requests to the Council at the January 2012 meeting with the Commissioners' approval. Hauptert made a motion to approve grant; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 3-0 vote.

Bill Konyha, President & CEO, EDG of Wabash County, Inc. stated, EDG has received and reviewed 93 leads for economic projects with 21 current active leads. Konyha stated EDG is currently working with a European company and after three extensive meetings EDG is at the next step in investigating the possible project. This would include travel to Poland and Holland for Konyha and a board member for a four (4) day trip for a total cost not to exceed \$10,000. Konyha requested the county cover up to \$5,000 of the travel expense and has requested the City of Wabash cover the other half. Konyha stated that any CEDIT funds not used will be returned to the city/county. Hauptert made a motion to approve the request; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 3-0 vote.

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Michael Beauchamp, Commissioners' Representative to the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, presented the following WRHCC Report:

1. Nineteen (19) counties are a part of the WRHCC
2. Beauchamp leads a volunteer group in Wabash County, the Wabash River Defenders which is a part of WRHCC
3. The WRHCC is financed through oil and gas royalty income drawn from under the Wabash River; totaling from \$160,000 to \$180,000 per year.
4. Project "Wabash Clean-out the Banks" was held in July this year.
 - a. A strip of 19.2 miles from the Huntington County line to the Miami County line was freed of twenty (20) tons of rubbish: 512 tires, 6,320 pounds of steel, car batteries, electronics – computers, televisions, chemicals, propane tanks, oil tanks, plumbing fixtures, four (4) sunken boats, a camper and a meth lab.
 - b. Beauchamp stated 300 volunteers assisted with the clean-up and 50 individuals provided ground assistance – there was a total of 3,000 hours involved with the project
 - c. Beauchamp stated \$3,500 was raised to help fund the project. Several organizations made \$500 cash or in-kind donations: City of Wabash, EDG of Wabash County, REMC, Ford Meter Box Co. Foundation, Indiana American Water, Modoc's Market, Knights of Columbus, Wabash Co. Solid Waste District, Republic Services and United Fund
 - d. Project "Wabash Clean-out the Banks" will be held again on Saturday, July 12, 2012. Beauchamp stated WRHCC has donated \$1,000 toward next year's project.
5. Beauchamp stated the WRHCC should have grant funds available for the 2012 year totaling \$300,000. The WRD will be applying for a portion of the funds to possibly fund the purchase of land along the Wabash River for public campgrounds.
6. The current county Dumping and Littering Ordinance enacted in 1989 has fines of \$100 for the first offense and \$200 for the second offense. Beauchamp requested this ordinance be updated with higher fines and stronger enforcements. Commissioners stated they would work with County Attorney Steve Downs to update the current ordinance. Beauchamp added areas that were clean are already showing signs of new dumping. Beauchamp also requested Commissioners consider signage to post possible fines. Commissioners will take under advisement.
7. The Eel River Foundation has a \$2.5 million dollar budget and has begun the clean-up process as well.
8. Beauchamp requested a \$500 donation for the WRHCC from the county. Beauchamp stated he has requested a \$500 donation from the City of Wabash as well. Commissioners will take under advisement.
9. Beauchamp asked to be re-appointed as the Wabash County WRHCC Representative, and requested Dick Beamer be re-appointed as an alternate and Keith Poole as a second alternate. Eppley made a motion to approve re-appointment of Beauchamp and Beamer and also appoint Poole; his motion was seconded by Hauptert and passed by a 3-0 vote.

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John Martin, Highway Superintendent:

1. Presented a Utility Application from NIPSCO to run a gas line at 7226 W 1000 N, Roann. Hauptert made a motion to approve the request; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Presented two (2) quotes for the replacement of the highway department's SUV:
 - a. Dorais Chevrolet for a total of \$25,990 including \$6,075 trade-in of a 2001 Yukon.
 - b. Wabash Valley Chrysler for a total of \$27,897.25 including \$5,000 trade-in of a 2001 Yukon.

Hauptert made a motion to approve Dorais Chevrolet quote at \$25,990 with trade-in; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 3-0 vote.

Bob Land, Wabash County Sheriff:

1. Presented a verbal jail report for the week ending 11/27/11. The average daily population was eighty-nine (89) inmates with two (2) inmates housed at the Miami County Jail.
2. Stated next week he will bring a recommendation for a jail officer replacement and a new merit officer for the 2012 year.

Steve Downs, County Attorney:

1. Stated he finalized a draft of a letter to the Indiana Criminal Code Evaluation Commission. The letter expressed the concern of the Wabash County Commissioners and County Council regarding the financial impact that housing convicted D felons at the county level would have on the county. The letter also requests that financial assistance be extended if such changes are implemented.
2. Working with Plan Commission Director Mike Howard on revisions to the wind farm ordinance
3. Working on a resolution for Cumulative Bridge Fund interest.
4. Working with Pat Lynn on revision of the Animal Control Ordinance
5. Stated he will begin working on revisions to the dumping ordinance as discussed with Beauchamp.
6. Stated fees have been collected for the K-2 violations. Downs questioned whether to place the funds in the General Fund or in a separate fund. Commissioners stated they would like this to have a separate fund. Commissioners requested the current collections be used to reimburse the county for previous testing. Auditor Ridgeway spoke with Tammy White, County Supervisor of SBOA, who stated that fines collected can be put in the General Fund or can be placed in a separate fund established by ordinance. Downs stated he will begin drafting this ordinance also.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator, was present with no report.

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Stan Bagley, Laketon Area Regional Sewer District Board Member, updated the commissioners on the Laketon Area Sewer Project. Bagley stated one (1) complaint has been received and was remedied. Bagley stated they are continuing to collect the required income surveys.

Jane Ridgeway, Wabash County Auditor:

1. Presented the Payroll Claims and Allowance Docket for Pay Period ended 11-26-11 includes semi-annual salary for Election Board Members. Commissioners unanimously approved.
2. Presented Resolution 2011-85-10 for continued participation in the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission. Commissioners approved and signed the resolution on a motion by Haupert, seconded by Eppley and a 3-0 vote.
3. Presented a letter of appreciation from the City of Wabash on the Brownfield Grant received.
4. Informed Commissioners that the State has set December 13th for the public hearing review of the 2012 Wabash County Budgets.
5. Stated the State budget Gateway website is now open for constituents to review.

Items for Commissioners' review:

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

County Council Packets for December 5, 2011 Meeting

Notice of Decision – Approval: ASI Acquisition, LLC

Northeast District Commissioners Association meeting for Wednesday, November 30th -

Commissioners stated they will attend this meeting. Ridgeway stated she will confirm.

Commissioners discussed a letter received from Charles R. Tiede, Attorney, concerning a pending lawsuit in Wabash Circuit Court (Cause #85C01-1105-PL-372) pertaining to the Belden Cemetery located on Schmalzried Road in Lagro Township. Commissioners concurred after reviewing previous Commissioners' minutes and the deed from 1872 as well as subsequent transfers of ownership regarding this property; they find no evidence to support ownership of the property was ever accepted by any Wabash County Board of Commissioners nor do they intend to acknowledge ownership. Eppley made a motion for the current board to decline ownership of the land, known as the Belden Cemetery, located on Schmalzried Road in Lagro Township; his motion was seconded by Haupert and passed by a 3-0 vote.

No other business, the meeting recessed. The Commissioners will meet on Monday, December 5, 2011 in the meeting room on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse starting at 9:00 A.M.

*Approved as written – December 5, 2011