

MARCH 18, 2013

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, March 18, 2013. Chairman Barry J. Eppley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with three members present: Eppley, Brian K. Haupert and Scott E. Givens. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Linda Conrad. The minutes of the March 11, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Haupert made a motion to approve the minutes as written; the motion was seconded by Givens and passed by a 3-0 vote.

John Martin, County Highway Superintendent presented a CenturyLink utility application to replace buried cable from the intersection of old SR 15 and 900 S west on the north side of 900 S to 100 W, south on the west side to 925 S and west on the north side to SR 13. Givens made a motion to approve the permit as requested. Haupert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Bob Land, Wabash County Sheriff stated there are 70 inmates in the Wabash County Jail; one inmate in the Miami County Jail. Reported the peak jail population last week was 76.

Bob Brown, EMA & Central Dispatch Director presented a proclamation which declares March 24-30, 2013 as Severe Weather Preparedness Week. Haupert made a motion to approve and issue the proclamation. Givens seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote and was signed by the Commissioners.

Steve Downs, County Attorney:

1. Reviewed a legal agreement with J&K Communications, Inc. for the purchase of an additional server for Central Dispatch.
2. Reviewed a legal agreement with SRI to provide homestead verification services for the auditor's office.
3. Stated that a draft petition and ordinance have been provided to the Commissioners to authorize expansion of the Laketon Regional Sewer District to include all unincorporated areas of Wabash County.
4. Commissioners signed Manchester University bond financing documents as approved previously.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator: Present with no report

Linda Conrad, County Auditor presented the 2013 Purdue University Extension Contractual Services Agreement. Commissioners signed the agreement.

Elaine Martin, County Clerk introduced Barry Conrad, a member of the Wabash County Vote Center Study Committee. Conrad stated that the law allowing counties to adopt the vote center model became effective July 1, 2011 and the study committee was established in May 2012. The committee held a formal hearing on January 15, 2013 to address questions and concerns from the public. He stated that the committee unanimously recommends, as required by

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law, that Wabash County change from voting precincts to vote centers. Voters would be required to present identification and sign in electronically. Voting locations would decrease from 20 precincts to nine vote centers. Early voting would be allowed on the two Saturdays prior to each election in the clerk's office and in satellite locations in N. Manchester and LaFontaine. Election costs would decrease by a projected \$11,600 per county-wide election and the estimated start-up costs of \$55,000 would be recovered in 4 to 5 election years. The committee estimated that the number of poll workers would decrease from 132 to 63. Conrad stated the required number of vote centers for Wabash County must be at least three but the committee was recommending nine. Hauptert made a motion to approve and adopt a resolution changing Wabash County from voting precincts to vote centers effective with the May 2014 election, subject to funding by the Wabash County Council. Given seconded the motion and it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Toni Mayo of INDOT and Mike Aylesworth of IDEM updated the Commissioners on current state programs and projects. Mayo reported that a chip and seal program will begin in the county after July 1, 2013. Aylesworth stated that the air, land and water quality standards have improved and are in compliance throughout the state. He stated that landfills and dump sites have been identified throughout the state and improvements are being made.

Jim Hughes, SRI, Inc. President and CEO explained his company's consulting services to assist the auditor's office with homestead deduction verification. His company would identify and collect back taxes owed to Wabash County from ineligible homestead deductions. He stated that no payment would be due SRI unless collected from the taxpayer, but if collected, the fee would be 30% of the collected amount. County Auditor Conrad stated that the auditor's office currently has 77 homestead deductions that have not been verified by the taxpayer in spite of sending several verification forms during the last three years, as required by state law. Conrad recommended the services of SRI, Inc. to assist her office. Givens made a motion to approve the consulting services agreement with SRI, Inc. as reviewed by the county attorney. Hauptert seconded the motion and it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners' review/approval:

March 18th payroll claims approved

Auditor and Treasurer's financial reports

IDEM approval notice of Speedway Transit Mix air quality permit due to company name change.

Also present: Chief Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube, Planning Director Mike Howard, Elections Deputy Clerk Teresa Erhet and Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Sheila Rhoades.

With no other business to come before the Board of Commissioners, the meeting was recessed. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 25, 2013 in the Commissioners' room on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse.