

April 14, 2014

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, April 14, 2014. Chairman Scott E Givens called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all three members present: Givens, Brian K Hauptert and Barry J Eppley. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Linda Conrad. The minutes of the April 7, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

John Martin, County Highway Superintendent:

1. Presented road-cut permit on 700 N just north of 425 S to install new field tile. Commissioners approved the request.
2. Reminded commissioners that a pre-construction meeting for Bridge 24 (Ogden Road over Otter Creek) will be held in the Commissioners' room at 1:00 p.m. on April 15, 2014.
3. Stated that a final coat of paint has been applied to the siding, ridge boards and eaves of Bridge 645 (North Manchester Covered Bridge). Mark Berry from United Consulting found some of the siding boards needed to be re-nailed. CLR Construction will return to fix those boards.

Bob Land, Wabash County Sheriff reported the Wabash County Jail currently has 79 inmates with 10 inmates at the Miami County Jail. Last week there were 11 transports and 24 bookings. The peak population was 81.

Keith Walters, EMA Director stated on Saturday an exercise was conducted by the State Communications Officer between the EMA and amateur ham radio operators. This exercise is performed each spring and fall. During the exercise it was discovered that some radio antennas were corroded and repairs were completed.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator reported:

1. The lawn tractor needs four new bushings and a transmission shock. Also recommended but less urgent, replacing spindles on the front wheels. The cost of replacing the bushings and transmission shock is estimated at \$300. If spindles are included the total is estimated at \$800. Eppley made a motion to repair the bushings and transmission shock for \$300. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Because three generators failed to start following the recent loss of electrical power (courthouse, health and highway) Novatek recommended installing an external exerciser on each unit so the transfer switch will be activated during routine testing. When the switch is not used there is a tendency to gum-up. Dils also recommended that a load bank test be conducted on the courthouse generator to determine whether the phone system could be added. Installing three exercisers will cost a total of \$1,467 and the load bank test \$265. Hauptert made the motion to approve both requests. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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Steve Downs, County Attorney was present with no report.

Linda Conrad, Wabash County Auditor was present with no report.

Sarah Lochner, Chief Probation Officer presented:

1. An additional appropriation for \$309 to pay the training cost for a Pre-Sentence Report Writer. The writer is required to earn 12 continuing education hours per year in order to maintain his Probation Officer Certification. The money will come out of the User Fee Fund.
2. A request to transfer monies from Office Manager to Probation Officer.
3. An additional appropriation for \$26,490 to purchase a new 2014 Traverse. The department now has 12 officers attempting to use one vehicle; they will still maintain the current vehicle. The money will come out of the User Fee Fund.

Eppley made a motion to approve sending all requests before the county council. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Robert Beckett, Jr. DDS, vice-president of the Wabash County Health Board introduced the new Environmental Food Specialist Rich Mofield. Lynn Dannacher, who will retire from that position on April 30, was also present and thanked the commissioners for the opportunity to serve Wabash County for the past 11 years. The commissioners individually expressed their appreciation to Dannacher for her service to Wabash County and its citizens.

Ken Jones, president of Jones Petrie Rafinski. presented an update on the Laketon sewer project. The total cost is projected to be about 4.6 million dollars. Once completed, an estimated 277 connections will have been made. JPR recently received plan approval from the USDA of Rural Development; they will open bids on Thursday. Thirteen sets of plans have been picked up so competitive bids are expected. JPR estimates that by this time next year the unincorporated town of Laketon will have a public utility. Jones thanked the citizens of Laketon and the commissioners for their support of this project.

The commissioners received four bids for calcium chloride or rock salt. Hauptert made the motion to close the bids; seconded by Eppley and passed by a 3-0 vote.

The bids received were:

<u>Salt Company</u>	<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
North American Salt Overland Park, Kansas	\$79.29	\$126,864
Morton Salt Chicago, Illinois	\$92.22	\$147,552

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Cargill, Inc. North Olmsted, Ohio	\$74.71	\$119,536
Detroit Salt Co. Detroit, Michigan	Declined to bid	

Hauptert made the motion to take the bids under advisement. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Teresa Witkoske, director of Purdue Extension spoke about the up-coming seminar by Professor Larry DeBoer from Purdue University on April 21, 2014. It will be held from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the commissioners' room at the county courthouse. Approximately 80 invitations were sent. Professor DeBoer will discuss taxes and budgeting from a state and local government perspective. The seminar is free but pre-registration is requested. Witkoske asked that the minutes from the previous council meeting, which dealt with this subject, be forwarded to Professor DeBoer so he can be county specific during his presentation. Conrad will forward the council minutes.

With no other business to come before the Board of Commissioners the meeting was adjourned. The commissioners will meet on Monday, April 21, 2014 in the commissioners' room on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse.

Also present: Marcie Shepherd, Deputy Auditor and Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Nick Van Heest.