

## JOINT SPECIAL SESSION

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners and the Wabash County Council met in a Special Joint Session to conduct a public hearing on Monday, November 24, 2014. Commissioner Chairman Scott E. Givens called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with three commissioners present: Givens, Brian K. Hauptert and Barry J. Eppley and seven council members present: James Kaltenmark, Randy Curless, Gary Nose, Jeff Dawes, Claude Markstahler, Bill Ruppel and Mike Ridenour. The proceedings of the meetings were recorded by County Auditor Linda Conrad.

Givens opened the public hearing for consideration of a joint resolution to authorize approval of an agreement for the acquisition of Wabash County Hospital by Parkview Wabash Hospital, Inc. Steve Downs, County Attorney gave a brief history of how the hospital was established in 1919. Downs introduced members of the Wabash County hospital board of directors: Chairman Roger Cromer, Rob Pearson, and Howard Halderman.

Wabash County Hospital President & CEO Marilyn Custer-Mitchell stated the key terms of the agreement with Parkview Health are:

1. All assets and liabilities will be turned over to Parkview Wabash Hospital.
2. Parkview Wabash Hospital will be a new incorporated entity with a 12 person board of directors, eight of whom will be from Wabash County.
3. Construction of a new facility will occur at either a new location or at the present site. Some monies will come from Wabash County Hospital but the majority will come from Parkview Hospital.
4. Restrictions will be developed regarding how the cash assets of Wabash County Hospital will be turned over to Parkview Wabash Hospital.
5. Liquidated damages will be provided if a new facility is not built within five years.
6. All existing employees are being made offers for employment.

Givens opened the floor for public comment.

County resident Paul Lewis asked if a patient needs to be transferred does he/she have the option of going to whatever hospital they choose. Custer-Mitchell stated it is always the right of the patient to choose where they want to go. Lewis stated that, according to what he read in the newspaper, this acquisition is not a good for the current employees, and asked that the commissioners and council not to approve the acquisition.

Givens closed the public hearing. Ridenour made a motion to approve a joint resolution authorizing the execution of an acquisition agreement. Ruppel seconded the motion; it passed by a 10-0 vote.

Also present: Kerri Mattern, Wabash County Hospital; Eric Claybough, Parkview Hospital; Doug Lehman, Wabash City Attorney; Kim Pinkerton, Chamber of Commerce; Sandy Beeks, Central Dispatch; Larry Thrush, Mike Beauchamp, Kathy Richardson, Eric Wathen, Banning Engineering; Rachel Lemon and Joe Slacian, Wabash Plain Dealer