

January 17, 2017

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Tuesday, January 17, 2017. Commissioner Scott E. Givens called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioners present: Givens, Barry J. Eppley and Brian K. Hauptert. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the January 9, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Hauptert made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

John Martin, County Highway Superintendent presented a utility permit from NIPSCO to install gas service to 544 N State Road 13. (It is a state road address but the connection is coming in from 50 N.) One 4'x4' bell hole will be dug. Eppley made a motion to approve the permit. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Bob Land, Wabash County Sheriff reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 93 inmates with 47 inmates housed at the Miami County Jail and 7 inmates at the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 21 new book-ins and 17 transports to the DOC with a peak population of 88.

Keith Walters, County EMA Director was present with nothing to report.

Steve Downs, Wabash County Attorney was present with nothing to report.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director received a request from the Indiana State Department of Health for a reappointment of our Weights & Measures Inspector. Eppley made a motion to re-appoint Todd Titus to a four year term as the Weights & Measures Inspector. (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2020.) Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented accounts payable claims and allowance docket for 1/17/2017. The commissioners approved the claims.

Old business: Kelly Schenkel, Wabash County Assessor stated she still needs a funding source to make the new XSoft software compatible with the Beacon website. (January 3, 2017) Hauptert made a motion pay the one-time fee of \$5,000 from the computer maintenance contract. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Sandy Beeks, Wabash County Central Dispatch Director requested signatures on an annual contract with Frontier Communications for E-911 equipment. (January 9, 2017) It is the same as last year. The contract was reviewed by Downs. Eppley made a motion to approve the contract. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

New business: Elaine Martin, Wabash County Clerk presented a contract with Microvote for signatures. The 2017 contract is the same as in the past, \$12,000

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for one year of upgrades and 24/7 tech support. Haupert made a motion to approve the contract. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Lena Gray spoke about the Wabash River Trail and how it appears that the proposed route may be adjacent to her residence and also across her front yard and driveway and those of several neighbors. Gray stated she had contacted (by phone) the person in charge of the trail but felt her concerns may not be considered. Gray stated she has figured out an alternate route and would like the commissioners to consider it. The commissioners stated at the present time they have had no involvement with the river trail and thought it would be beneficial for Mrs. Gray to have a sit-down conversation with the people involved in the trail. Mark Frantz spoke on behalf of the Wabash River Trail committee and stated they would contact Mrs. Gray about a meeting with her and her neighbors to discuss the route and any concerns they may have.

Tom Christman asked about the right-a-way footage for the road adjacent to his property. Givens stated it is 42' from the center of the road. Christman stated a current survey says it is 60' and he wanted to know why. County Plan Director Mike Howard stated he would look into it but it could be that the right-of-way changes where his property meets the corporate limits.

Bill Ruppel stated he will soon bring in a contract for the commissioners to sign so he can lobby at the state legislature, on behalf of the county, in regard to possible funding options for a new jail. He will get Wabash County included in a bill to be able to increase the income tax rate, if it is decided to utilize this option. Currently there is no option for this change unless the county goes through this process. Eppley stated this does not mean the county will do this, but it will give a method that currently is not available. Ruppel stated he would also assist any other office that may need his help at the statehouse. Eppley made a motion to sign an agreement to pay up to \$7,000 for work performed by Mr. Ruppel (in 2017) on behalf of Wabash County. Haupert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Kristi Bone, Lagro Town Clerk stated that a house was recently condemned by the Wabash County Health Department. The windows and doors have been broken or removed. She asked how the town could go about boarding up the structure before people enter or injure themselves. Givens deferred the question to Mike Howard who stated the county health department has jurisdiction to condemn a property but currently there is no process in place to be able to secure the property. The commissioners stated they will look into the matter.

With no other business to come before the Board of Commissioners the meeting was adjourned. The commissioners will next meet on Monday, January 23, 2017.

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Also present: Wabash County Coroner Suzie Lewis, Jim and Mary Gressley, Bud and Bonnie Pressler, Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Mackenzi Klemann and The Paper reporter Emma Rausch.