

January 23, 2017

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, January 23, 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 17, 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 Indiana Fiber Network to run fiber along the south side of 200 N west of State Road 13 to 100 W, then south along the west side of 100 W to 50 N, west along the north side of 50 N to 150 W, south along the west side of 150 W to Division Road, west along the north side of Division Road to 200 W and finally along 200 W to John Kissinger Drive. Martin stated the county surveyor has some concerns about the permit but those will be addressed when the permit is received. Hauptert made a motion to approve the permit. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Martin presented the 2017 Covered Bridge Certification form for the State confirming that Wabash County has two covered bridges. The commissioners signed the certification.

Martin requested permission to attend the LTAP Storm Water Drainage Conference at Purdue University on February 9, 2017. The commissioners approved the request.

Bob Land, Wabash County Sheriff reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 92 inmates with 55 inmates housed at the Miami County Jail and 7 inmates at the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 23 new book-ins and 15 transports to the DOC with a peak population of 93.

Land presented the 2016 Wabash County Jail Information Report. He spoke briefly on the contents which included housing information, booking statistics, jail incidents, staffing program services, transports and needs/maintenance.

Steve Downs, Wabash County Attorney presented a contract with Bill Ruppel to provide lobbying services on behalf of Wabash County before the Indiana General Assembly. It was noted that the ending date on the contract was incorrect. Hauptert made a motion to approve the contract pending the correction. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Downs stated he has emailed a memorandum of understanding to Historic Landmarks Foundation concerning the "old jail". He is waiting on their response before presenting it to the commissioners.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director was present with nothing to report.

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Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented the payroll claims and allowance for pay period ending 1/25/2017. The commissioners approved the claims.

Shepherd stated that last week the amount stated to convert the assessor's information to be posted to the Beacon Schneider website was incorrect. The correct amount should have been \$3,000 (not \$5,000).

Old business: Bill Ruppel spoke about the wording in a resolution that will be drafted in the coming weeks. The purpose is to authorize a request for modification of Wabash County's income tax from the Indiana State Legislature. Ruppel suggested:

1. A rate range be included so the county is not limited to one specific rate.
2. Any funds that remain after the project is completed be designated for a specific purpose such as jail operations. Without such designation, the funds would revert to the county highway department.
3. Be sure it is stated that this tax (if used) is to be outside the max levy.

The commissioners stated they would like to resolution to include:

1. A range between .1 and .5.
2. If any funds remain they are to be used for operational expenses.
3. If this tax levy is used it will be outside the max levy.

New business: Jeff Hobson, County Community Corrections Director requested permission to submit the 2017-2018 DOC grant application. Hobson explained how they are trying to expand some projects and create new ones. The commissioners approved the request.

Trisha Hanes, Assistant Chief Probation Officer requested permission to submit an annual application for the JDAI grant. Hanes stated the only change is they are requesting an additional \$30,000 for programming. Eppley made a motion to approve the request. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Angela Christopher, 4-H Youth Development Educator spoke on behalf of the 4-H Junior Leaders. They are requesting permission to access county land to look into the possibility of establishing a walking path from OJ Neighbors Elementary School to the Wabash County 4-H Fairgrounds. They will be requesting permission from the city as well. The commissioners approved the request to help them proceed with determining the feasibility of the proposed walking path.

Shepherd presented a contract with SRI Inc. to conduct a 2016 Commissioner Certificate Sale to be held on April 12, 2017. This will include parcels which did not sell in October 2016. Hauptert made a motion to approve the contract. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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With no other business to come before the Board of Commissioners the meeting was adjourned. The commissioners will next meet on Monday, January 30, 2017.

Also present: Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Mackenzi Klemann, News Journal reporter David Fenker, Wabash County plan director Mike Howard and United Consulting vice president Steve Jones.