

## February 26, 2018

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, February 26, 2018. Chairman Brian K. Hauptert called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioners present: Hauptert, Scott E. Givens and Barry J. Eppley. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the February 19, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Givens seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

An agreement between Norfolk and Southern Railway and Wabash County Government was presented for signatures. It states the railroad will maintain the crossing on the County Farm property at no cost to the county. Eppley made a motion to approve the contract. Givens seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Sandy Beeks, County Central Dispatch Director stated Noble (Fire Department) is having difficulties obtaining a signal in the southwestern part of the county. An existing tower has been located south of US 24 (north of Richvalley) that may be suitable on which to install dispatch communication equipment. The county would have to pay the utility expense and \$1,000 per month to use the tower. Beeks presented a lease agreement and a photo of the area the signal would reach which would include the area that has no signal. J & K Communications submitted a quote of \$31,153 to provide and install the necessary equipment. J&K estimated the cost to install a new tower would be \$45,000 plus the cost of the land. A question was asked about using DNR ground but Land stated it is low so a tower would not be tall enough to provide a good signal. Downs stated he would like to review the contract. Givens made a motion to take the contract under advisement. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

John Martin, County Highway Superintendent:

1. Presented a request from the Metropolitan School District to add stone to a bus turn-around at 4636 W 400 S. Eppley made a motion to approve the request. Givens seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Stated the east approach of Bridge #144 (1050 S over Grant Creek) was washed out last week as a result of excess rain water and a large log jam under the bridge. An engineer from Butler Fairman & Seufert Inc. will inspect the bridge on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> to determine if it can be repaired or will need to be replaced.

Bob Land, Wabash County Sheriff reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 102 inmates with 40 inmates housed in the Miami County Jail and 3 in the Blackford County Jail. Last week there were 27 book-ins and 18 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 98.

Land also requested:

1. Approval to replace a 3-ton roof top heating and cooling unit at the jail with a 5-ton unit. Multiple vendors were contacted but only Quality Electric

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submitted a quote for \$12,570. Eppley made a motion to approve the quote and that it be paid from EDIT funds. Givens seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

2. Approval to remodel an area in the jail basement to provide additional storage space. The cost of \$5,800 would be paid by the sheriff's department. The commissioners agreed.
3. Permission to replace a merit deputy. The commissioners agreed.

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

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

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

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor was present with nothing to report.

Eppley made a motion to re-appoint Stewart Hawley to the Alcohol Beverage Board. Givens seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Review Items: IDEM Notice – Approval – Metal Source, LLC – modification at an existing source.

With no other business to come before the Board of Commissioners the meeting was adjourned. The commissioners will next meet on Monday, March 5, 2018.

Also present: News Journal reporter David Fenker, Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Andrew Maciejewski, Wabash County Chief Deputy Sheriff Tyler Guenin and Wabash County Council Chairman Randy Curless.