

May 21, 2018

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, May 21, 2018. Chairman Brian K. Hauptert called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioners present: Hauptert, Barry J. Eppley and Scott E. Givens. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the May 14, 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.

John Martin, County Highway Superintendent presented:

1. A utility permit from Frontier Communications to bore under 850 N and bury 250' of cable along the south side of 850 N to provide service to 3838 W 850N. Givens made a motion to approve the permit. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. A contract with Butler Fairman & Seufert Inc. to provide engineering services for a pavement asset management rating and five-year plan for all 729 miles of Wabash County's highway system. The contracted amount is not to exceed \$48,834. This rating and plan is needed to make Wabash County eligible for Community Crossing funds that are available from the State. The asset management plan will need to be completed prior to the county applying for Community Crossing funds. Community Crossing funds will be requested for the 1100 N project. Eppley made a motion to approve the contract. Givens seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. The projected cost for replacement (\$1,145,000) and rehabilitation (\$325,000) for Bridge 144 (1050 S over Grant Creek). The replacement cost would include a complete replacement of the bridge with soil stabilization at the approaches and raising the road and bridge to a level that would minimize but not eliminate flooding. The rehabilitation cost would include replacing the washed-out end bent, road stabilization and new approaches. The process of applying for assistance from FEMA has begun. Martin stated FEMA may not assist in funding if the bridge is replaced but may if it is rehabilitated. Toby Steffen Butler, Fairman & Seufert Inc. representative concurred. The commissioners stated they want Martin to pursue the rehabilitation process.

Bob Land, Wabash County Sheriff reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 97 inmates with 34 additional housed in the Miami County Jail, 3 in the Blackford County Jail and 9 in the Elkhart County Jail. Last week 19 inmates were transported to other facilities and there were 30 new book-ins. The peak population was 105.

Land also stated he has received:

1. A quote from Hoosier Flooring for \$422.09 to repair flooring in the rec. room that was damaged by inmates. Eppley made a motion to approve the quote. Givens seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. A quote from Schlemmer Brothers for materials to repair (5) jail showers. The total cost would be \$6,775 but does not include installation. A previous

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quote to replace the showers was seven to eight thousand dollars each. Land will investigate whether Greg Harnish can complete the installation and will report back.

3. Quotes to replace the recording and phone system. The system was installed in 2009 with the expected life cycle being five years. Word Systems quoted \$19,187 plus a warranty of \$4,363. Intraset quoted \$1,128.40 per month. If Intraset is chosen, it will eliminate the \$800 month phone bill. Land requested permission to proceed on a contract with Intraset. 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 presented the accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 5/21/2018. The commissioners approved all claims.

At 9:15 a.m. a public hearing was held regarding a petition to vacate part of an alley in the Town of Urbana.

Aaron Mattern spoke on behalf of the Urbana Yoke Parish, which is requesting that an alley be vacated. Mattern stated the alley has morphed to the east of its original location and the area currently being used is really on church property. The original location is covered with grass and is just west of the area being used as the alley. The church is planning the addition of a carport and a handicap accessible ramp. The planned improvements do not affect either the current or real location of the alley. Mattern wanted to make sure that no aspects of the building project would affect adjoining alley landowners, but expressed concerns about the current travel path being used.

Tiffany Hauptert stated she would like to see the alley remain open because she and a few other citizens travel the alley, which is one of the main thoroughfares within the town. Hauptert stated if the alley is located back where it belongs (by adding stone, this would eliminate closing of the alley and the church would not be having people drive through their property. This action may take some directional signage to inform drivers that the alley is now in a different location.

Fred O'Dell stated he didn't understand why the alley needed vacated if the improvements were not affecting the alley. Givens asked Martin if it is feasible to relocate the alley in the original platted location. Martin stated it could be done. Givens made a motion, based on the information provided, to deny the petition to vacate. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. The commissioners

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asked Martin to check the site and determine the steps necessary to make the true alley useable for traffic. The public hearing was closed.

Jed Derck spoke about Bridge 144 being out (1050 S) and appreciates that the bridge repair is moving forward. Derck also requested the road be looked at because of crowning. It is used by heavy trucks and because it has no shoulders has become dangerous.

With no other business to come before the Board of Commissioners the meeting was adjourned. The commissioners will next meet on Tuesday, May 29, 2018.

Also present: News Journal reporter David Fenker, Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Kaitlin Gebby, Wabash County Sheriff's Department Major Tyler Guenin, County Central Dispatch Director Sandy Beeks and Butler, Fairman & Seufert Inc. representative Toby Steffen.