

December 23, 2019

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, December 23, 2019. Chairman Barry J. Eppley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all Commissioners present: Brian K. Hauptert and Jeff D. Dawes. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the December 16, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Hauptert made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent, presented:

1. Utility permit from Frontier Communications to run underground communications to 4161 S Mill Creek Parkway. Hauptert made the motion to approve the permit. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Utility permit from Indiana Fiber Network to install cable for a tower along Wabash Road in North Manchester. Hauptert made the motion to approve the permit. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0.
3. Once the bids (December 16, 2019) were reviewed a second time, it was discovered that Traffic Control Specialist had indeed included the correct paperwork for the bid processing. Wyatt requested Traffic Control Specialist bid be approved. Hauptert made the motion to approve Traffic Control Specialist bid. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
4. Regarding the CCMG 2019-2 1902220 call agreement, INDOT has requested in writing that the signatory has the authority to bind the local government. Hauptert made the motion that the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners has the authorization to bind Wabash County in agreements, contracts, and grants the Board of Commissioners have deemed as necessary to be entered into. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
5. Requested permission to sign the letter to proceed with West Plains Mining. United Consulting will be issuing the letter shortly. Since the Board of Commissioners will not be meeting again until 2020, permission is sought to approve the letter once it is received. Dawes made the motion to approve the request and give Wyatt the authorization to sign the letter/contract. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
6. Requested authorization to sign on behalf of the County a contract with Environmental ERS for consulting and testing services for clean-up at the county highway property. Currently the contract is under review with the county attorney. Hauptert made the motion to approve the request. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff, reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 83 inmates, with 37 additional being housed in the Miami County Jail and 30 in the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 20 book-ins and 11 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 87. The total inmate count was 153.

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

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Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor, presented;

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 12/23/2019.
2. Payroll claims and allowances for pay period ending 12/14/2019.
Commissioners approved all claims.
3. Requested the appointment of Byron Brunn and Dennis Ayers to the North Manchester Plan Commission. Hauptert made the motion to approve the appointments. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
4. Requested appointment of Jeremy Markham and Jennifer Bailey to the Wabash County Tourism Commission. Hauptert made the motion to approve the appointments. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Sandy Beeks, Wabash County Central Dispatch Director, requested permission to make an application for a grant. The Wabash Fire Department, the volunteer fire department, and Central Dispatch will be collaborating to request a grant to purchase equipment to aid Central Dispatch to connect to responders in the field. Hauptert made the motion to approve the request. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Josh Winrotte, Purdue Extension, stated Jeff Schortgen has been hired for the Ag Resource educator. Filling the position of the Director has been a little more challenging. Phone screens begin in January and the position is anticipated to be filled by March 1. Commissioners thanked him for the update.

With no other public comment or other business to come before the Board of Commissioners, the meeting was adjourned. The Commissioners will next meet on Monday, January 6, 2020.