

## January 27 , 2020

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, January 27, 2020. Chairman Brian K. Hauptert called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioners present: Hauptert, Barry J. Eppley, and Jeff D. Dawes. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Rick Morris presented a landscaping project which the Roann Lions Club would like to complete on the east end of the Roann Covered Bridge. To make the lawn mowing safer, the club proposes to fill-in the area with dirt to reduce the incline to approximately 15 degrees. This will bring the bottom of the slope out approximately 10 feet. The project will be at no cost to the county. The club will donate all labor and materials including the soil and grass seed. George Bowman, Division of Waterways, and the DNR both have been contacted but approval is not needed from their offices, as long as the county commissioners approve the project. Mike Howard, Plan Commission Director, stated he would like to see the proposed project to determine if the plan commission needs to issue a county permit. Eppley made a motion to approve the landscaping project. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent, reported the Metropolitan School District would like stone added to a drive at 6760 W 1100 S in Amboy for a school bus turn-around. Dawes made a motion to approve. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff, reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 87 inmates with 43 inmates housed in the Miami County Jail and 26 in the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 21 book-ins and 11 transports to other facilities. The peak population for last week was 84. The total prisoner count is 163.

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

Steve Downs, County Attorney, presented an ordinance regulating the operation of off-road vehicles. Eppley made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-85-01 an ordinance regulating the operation of off-road vehicles on county roads. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Eppley made a motion to suspend the rules to proceed to second reading. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Eppley made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-85-01 on second reading. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Downs reported that a Northcliff project letter from BCS Management implied some of the pre-loan closing costs could be covered by a grant if the grant is approved. Downs will confirm and report back to the commissioners.

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

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

Eppley presented a letter to be signed to support the application from Grow Wabash County for the Duke Energy Site Readiness program for the Wabash County Farm. Eppley made a motion to approve the letter showing support. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Opening of bids for Bridge 144 (1050 S over Grant Creek) were received as advertised. Eppley made a motion to close bids. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

The following bids were opened:

- Primco Inc. of Fort Wayne for \$846,970.05
- Yardberry Landscape of Anderson for \$733,847.50

**January 27, 2020**

- Pioneer Association of Albion for \$699,853.25

Eppley made a motion to take the bids under advisement. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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, February 3, 2020.

Also, present: Chief Deputy Auditor Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Central Dispatch Director Sandy Beeks, Craig McCullough, Natalie Roe, and Amanda Lawrence.