

July 20, 2020

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, July 20, 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 July 13, 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.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent presented a bill of sale for signatures for a utility trailer. The trailer is being purchase for \$3,075 and will be titled in the name of the commissioners. Eppley made a motion to approve the purchase. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 91 inmates with 37 inmates housed in the Miami County Jail and 12 in the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 26 book-ins and 17 transports to other facilities. The peak population for last week was 92. The total prisoner count is 143.

Hauptert stated that last week he accompanied the sheriff, chief deputy sheriff, and jail commander on a tour of the Adams County Jail.

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

Mark Frantz, County Attorney representative was present with nothing to report.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowance for docket ending 7/20/2020.
2. Payroll claims and allowances for pay period ending 7/11/2020.

Dawes made a motion to approve all claims. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

3. Certificate of exemption for emergency community block grant for COVID-19 resources. The certificate is to be filed with the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs grant.
4. Resolution 2020-85-06 approving the application of Wabash County for community development block grant funds for the COVID-19 response long term recovery program from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

Eppley made a motion to approve both the certification of exemption and Resolution 2020-85-06. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Dawes stated he received a letter from Linda Jarvis and wanted to respond to some incorrect statements in the letter related to Bridge 144.

1. It makes no difference to the commissioners if a bridge is in the north or south part of the county. That has no bearing on any decision.

July 20, 2020

2. If the bridge was repaired a weight limit would be required and posted so the local gravel business would still need to use a different route.
3. Residents who live next to the bridge may be inconvenienced but other residents would not. Alternative routes have been driven (by both the highway superintendent and supervisor) and the quickest route (between LaFontaine and Somerset) is SR 15 north to 950 S (then west to 1000 W, north to 925 S, and west to SR 13.) Even if the bridge was open, traveling 1050 S is a slower route.

Donna Harmon stated the Roann Festival is still scheduled but will be much different than in the past. Harmon asked for the covered bridge to be closed on Saturday, September 12, 2020. The commissioners approved the request.

With no other public comment or other business to come before the Board of Commissioners the meeting was adjourned. The commissioners are scheduled to next meet on Monday, July 27, 2020.

Also present: Shelly Baucco Chief Deputy Auditor, Wabash County Clerk Lori Draper, Don Jarvis, Wabash Plain Dealer editor Rob Burgess, Bill Shepler, and Bryan Lacy.

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS