

September 14, 2020

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, September 14, 2020. Chairman Brian K. Hauptert called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioner's present: Hauptert, Barry J. Eppley, and Jeff D. Dawes. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the September 8, 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.

Brian Hauptert addressed the new Social Security tax deferral option contained in a presidential memorandum issued August 8, 2020. It allows workers who make \$4,000 or less bi-weekly to temporarily stop paying their portion of the payroll tax from September 1 through December 31, 2020. Those taxes, however, will need to be repaid during the first four months of 2021 along with reinstatement of the normal tax. Because of this, he recommended that Wabash County not participate and continue to withhold the current payroll tax deductions. Eppley made a motion to opt out of deferring Social Security payroll taxes for all county employees. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent presented the following:

1. Purchase order for a new Kobelco SK85 CS excavator for \$111,000. Eppley made a motion to approve the purchase. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Requested approval for the pricing and sale of miscellaneous WCHD property. The sale will be September 24, 2020 from 12-3 p.m. A list of items and pricing is available at the highway department. Dawes made a motion to approve the pricing and sale. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. Requested approval of a contract with DLZ to redesign the office to provide proper social distancing. Eppley made a motion to approve the contract pending a review by Steve Downs. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff presented the following:

1. Wabash County Jail currently has 86 inmates with 47 additional housed in the Miami County Jail, 11 in the Tipton County Jail, and 14 in the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 19 book-ins and 13 transports to other facilities. The peak population last week was 87. The total prisoner count is 156.
2. Requested permission to sign a contract with Combined Public Communications (CPC) to use their bulk ordering service to purchase items for commissary. Eppley made a motion to approve the contract. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. Presented an Interlocal Agreement with between the Sheriff and the Circuit and Superior courts. The agreement covers a special deputy assigned to court security. Eppley made a motion to approve the agreement. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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Steve Downs, County Attorney requested approval to advertise for the position of owner's rep for the jail project. Bidders will be required to provide a fee schedule; Downs will provide an outline. Eppley made a motion to approve the agreement. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director stated a wedding previously approved to be held on the Roann Covered Bridge on May 17, 2020 was postponed due to COVID-19. It has been rescheduled for June 12, 2021. The commissioners agreed to the date change for use of the bridge.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented:

1. Payroll claims and allowances for pay period ending 09/05/2020. Dawes made a motion to approve payroll claims. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. On behalf of Clerk of Courts, Shepherd presented two agreements to appoint Cindy Maggart and Arlene Wolfgang to serve as members of the Absentee Board. Eppley made a motion to approve the appointments. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote

A public hearing was held for the vacate of un-improved streets and alleys in Liberty Mills. Douglas and Alice Campbell requested that several streets and alleys be closed. Mike Howard, Area Plan Director said the plan commission had no concerns with the request. Kelly Campbell, Mary Jane Barrett, and Robert Prater, all neighbors whose properties are adjacent to the un-improved streets and alleys, were present and stated they are not in favor of closing them. After some discussion, Eppley made a motion to take the request under advisement for further study. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote

A second public hearing was held for the vacate of an un-improved alley in Laketon. Donald Kerschner requested the 10-foot wide alley in the P.E. Wertenbergers Addition to the Town of Laketon, as defined in Plat Book #3, pages 010 and 011, to be vacated. No one was present to object. Eppley made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-85-08 to vacate the alley. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Eppley made a motion to close the hearing. 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 are scheduled to next meet on Monday, September 21, 2020.

Also present: Chief Deputy Auditor Shelly Baucco and Cory Dietz.