

October 13, 2020

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

A public hearing for OCRA COVID-19 Response Grant was called to order:

Keith Gillenwater opened the meeting with the following statement: “Good morning – thank you all for attending this public hearing for Wabash County’s Grant Program to Businesses to retain low-to-moderate income jobs funded by the OCRA COVID-19 Phase 2 Recovery Grant program. My name is Keith Gillenwater and I am the CEO of Grow Wabash County. The county commissioners have authorized me to conduct this public hearing. This meeting is being held in person in the Commissioners Room at the Wabash County Courthouse located at 1 W. Hill Street, Wabash, IN 46992 and is being recorded. This public hearing was advertised in the September 30th edition of the Wabash Plain Dealer and notice was posted in the public hearing locations as well as notice provided to Wabash County media partners.

“Wabash County has applied for and received funding from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for a grant from the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) COVID-19 Phase 2 Recovery Program. This program is funded by Title I of the Federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. These funds are to be used for an economic recovery project that will include the following activities: Grants to businesses within Wabash County limits. The total amount of CDBG funds requested is \$160,000. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low and moderate-income persons is \$161,050.50. Wabash County also proposes to spend an estimated \$40,000 in non-CDBG funds on the project. Our total budget for this program is \$200,000, of which \$195,000 will go to direct grants to businesses, and we have approved 42 businesses for funding. A total of 271 people will be served, with 225 of them qualifying as low-to-moderate income, for a total LMI% of 82.59%. As a reminder, the CDBG program requires that at least 51% of funds benefit LMI persons.

“Grow Wabash County is the sub-recipient to this grant program and is also coordinating the administration of this program on behalf of Wabash County.

“I will ask everyone to raise their hand if they wish to make a comment and I will call on you. I ask that you please state your name and address before you speak. We will record all of your comments and they will be submitted along with our packet of grant information to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs.”

Chelsea Boulrisse, 1424 Jones Street, Wabash gave a statement of support outlining how the grant will help the small businesses in the county.

Brian Hauptert, 305 E 7th Street, N. Manchester gave a statement of support and expressed how the funds will help bridge the gap in funds needed in small businesses.

Marcie Shepherd, 1505 E 500 S, Wabash expressed it was great that 42 businesses will be helped with this grant.

With no further comment Gillenwater closed the hearing.

Next the commissioners received requests for proposals to serve as Owner’s Representative for the construction of a new county jail:

1. PMSI – Noblesville, IN
2. Veritas Group – Indianapolis, IN
3. Pyramid Consulting Services – Indianapolis, IN

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

The minutes of the October 5, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Dawes made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent:

1. Requested approval to submit an application for Community Crossings Matching Grant program funds. Wyatt also requested a letter to confirm Wabash County has the match funds available for the projects we have applied for on this call.

Wabash County is looking forward to improvements that can be made on the following projects:

- Old State Road 15 from Dora Road to Meridian Road
- Meridian Road from N. Heckathorn Drive to 1500 N
- 1100 N from 3,000' west of 175 E to 300 E
- Small structure on 600 E approximately 600' south of 1000 S

With a total construction estimate of \$1,334,902.31, Wabash County is applying for \$1,000,000.00 with a County match of \$334,902.31. Eppley made a motion to approve the letter and application. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

2. Presented an agreement with USI Consultants, Inc. for Wabash County small structure assessment on America Road over Badger Creek. The agreement is not to exceed \$5,200 for structure condition assessment, hydraulics, and sizing.

Eppley made a motion to approve the agreement for \$5,200. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff:

1. Presented the jail report. Wabash County Jail currently has 87 inmates with 44 additional housed in the Miami County Jail, 6 in the Tipton County Jail, 1 in Jay County and 14 in the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 26 book-ins and 17 transports to other facilities. The peak population last week was 96. The total prisoner count is 155.
2. Presented a quote from Cottage Watchman for \$72,411 to update the storage space on the jail camera system. Baker explained the current system is not able to hold the 180 days of storage that the prosecutor would like to have.

Eppley made a motion to take the quote under advisement as they need to determine the funding source. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented payroll claims and allowance for pay period ending 10/03/2020. Dawes made a motion to approve all claims. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director presented a quote for exterior repairs at the judicial center to eliminate moisture issues on the west and east sides of the building. The quote from Atlas Building Services was \$5,215 for five man-days, plus materials and equipment. The commissioners were in agreement that the work needs to be completed.

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, October 19, 2020.

Also present: Chief Deputy Auditor Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Treasurer LuAnn Layman, Wabash County Plan Director Mike Howard, Tenille Zartman, Alex Downard, Denver Cupps, and Bryan Lacey.