

March 1, 2021

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, March 1, 2021. Commissioner Jeff D. Dawes called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all three commissioners present: Dawes, Barry J. Eppley and Brian K. Hauptert. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the February 22, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Hauptert made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

During a public hearing on September 14, 2020, a request was presented and discussed to vacate several unimproved alleys and streets in the Town of Liberty Mills. That request was taken under advisement. After further study, Eppley made a motion to deny the request to vacate. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent requested a bid opening date of March 22, 2021 be set for a small structure replacement on 600 E, (Bridge #53 over an unnamed tributary of Grant Creek). Hauptert made a motion to approve the request. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff reported the Wabash County Jail currently has 88 inmates, with 31 additional being housed in the Miami County Jail, 2 in the Tipton County Jail and 7 in the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 17 book-ins and 9 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 92. The total inmate count was 138.

Keith Walters, County EMA Director requested permission to apply for a grant of \$40,320 to help offset the cost of the COVID vaccination clinic. This is an advanced grant not a reimbursement grant. Hauptert made a motion to approve the request. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director presented:

1. An Anthem group health insurance renewal contract for approval and signature. There will be no benefit changes for the next 12 months, which begins 04/01/2021. Eppley made a motion to approve the new contract. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. A broker of record authorization letter for Gallagher to be the county representative for the Cobra aspect of the group health plan. Eppley made a motion to approve and sign the broker of record authorization. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. A quote from Johnson Controls to enhance door security in the judicial building for \$1,400.13. Hauptert made a motion to approve the quote. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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4. An agreement for use of the Roann Covered Bridge for a graduation party on June 19, 2021. Hauptert made a motion to approve the request. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented;

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 3/1/2021.
2. Payroll claims and allowances for pay period ending 2/20/2021.

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

Baker and Wyatt each requested permission to hire staff to fill budgeted vacancies within their departments. Eppley made a motion to approve hiring individuals to fill those vacancies. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Eppley will communicate that information to the county council.

Dils and the commissioners complimented Wyatt and the highway department on the quick snow removal from the county roads, the courthouse parking lot and Hill Street following the snowfall on February 16th.

Ben & Phil Beer, USI Consulting stated their company is interested in bidding on the county-wide bridge inspection contract which will soon be advertised. They stated Cole Wyatt has been a great asset for the county highway department and easy to work with. Beer stated USI and Wabash County have worked together in the past and hopes to continue that relationship.

A bid opening was conducted on behalf of Heartland Career Center to secure an architect for its expansion project. Hauptert made a motion to close the bids. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Matt Brinkman, Region 3A Executive Director who is assisting with the grant process, stated eleven bids were received but unfortunately one bid did not arrive by the deadline. The following ten bids were accepted.

Keystone Architecture
Design Collaborative
Jones Petrie Rafinski
MSKTD
Garmann Miller & Associates
Prince Alexander
Martin Riley
Grinsfelder Associates
MKM Architecture & Design
Elevatus Architecture

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Hauptert made a motion to take the bids under advisement and refer them to the architecture selection committee. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Mark Hobbs, Director of Heartland Career Center expressed his gratitude to the county for partnering with Heartland Career Center on their expansion project. Hobbs also thanked the county for use of the fair grounds for a CDL class for young adults. Last year seven individuals passed the course.

The commissioners thanked Hobbs and the Heartland Career Center for their efforts to expand the building and in educating our youth.

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, March 8, 2021.

Also present: *In person*: Josh Goodman, David Terflinger, Doug Dukes and Mike Miller. *Via Zoom*: Carrie Covin and Rob Burgess.

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Jeff D. Dawes
Chairman

/s/ Barry J. Eppley
Vice-Chairman

/s/Brian K. Hauptert

Attest: _____
/s/Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor