

April 26, 2021

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, April 26, 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 April 19, 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.

Terry Burnworth of Pyramid Consulting, reported as owner's representative on the Architecture Engineer (AE) selection for the new Wabash County jail. Burnworth reported the top four companies were DLZ, Elevatus, K2M and RQAW. After the initial scoring by the selection committee, they recommended that the commissioners enter into contract negotiations with RQAW. The final AE agreement should be ready to present for approval at the May 10th meeting. He also reported that the Resolution for Bond Anticipation Note will be moved to May 17, 2021. Hauptert made a motion to enter into contract negotiations with RQAW. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Mike Howard, Wabash County Plan Commission Director, along with Sherry Swinger and Mark Draper, presented a request to vacate an alley in the Town of Lincolnville. Ms. Swinger lost her residence to a fire in February 2021. In order to rebuild on the existing site without interfering with the septic, two wells, and trees on the property, Ms. Swinger would like to vacate the alley south of her three lots so she can fit the new residential structure within the old footprint and add an attached garage which would extend south partially into the requested vacated alley. All notifications were sent as required. All alleys in the Plat of Lincolnville are 16 feet in width. Because this is part of the Plat of Lincolnville, the entire 16-foot width of the alley south of lots #1-3, which Ms. Swinger is requesting to vacate, would go to Sherry Swinger. It would not be split with the adjoining property owners to the south.

Neighbor Kevin Bowman spoke of concerns about encroachments and would like to leave the buffer strip. Mr. Downs stated that concerns of encroachments are not a deciding factor in vacating an alley. Scott Draper (neighbor) spoke in favor of vacating the alley. Hauptert made a motion to take the matter under advisement. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent, reported he had received letters of intent for Bridge #143, (1050 S over Grant Creek). BLN, Butler-Fairman and Clark Dietz submitted packets. United Consulting and RQAW submitted "no thank you" letters.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff, reported the Wabash County Jail currently has 77 inmates, with 19 additional being housed in the Miami County Jail, 13 in the Tipton County Jail and 13 in the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 23

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book-ins. Baker did not have the number for transports to other facilities. The peak population was 77. The total inmate count was 123.

Baker also reported a deputy had a vehicle accident and the insurance company deemed the truck a “total loss.” The cost of a new truck is around \$31,000. Baker requested permission to purchase the new truck now, using the Sheriff’s commissary fund, and when the insurance payment is received (around \$21,800) deposit it into the commissary fund. Hauptert made a motion to allow the purchase of a truck and then deposit the insurance check into the Sheriff’s commissary fund. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Steve Downs, County Attorney, stated the City of Wabash would like to purchase the unsold tax sale property located on Smith Street next to the RV park. They are offering the minimum bid of \$200. The 120-day redemption period starts when they assign the certificate. Hauptert made a motion to assign the certificate to the City of Wabash for the \$200. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor, presented the payroll claims and allowances for pay period ending 04/17/2021. Hauptert made a motion to approve. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Dawes ask if there were any ADA or Title VI concerns. None were heard.

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, May 3, 2021.

Also present: *In-person*: First Deputy Auditor Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Clerk of Courts Lori Draper, Josh Goodman, Kevin Bowman, and Mike Miller. *Via Zoom*: Rob Burgess and Carrie Colvin.

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