

## August 30, 2021

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, August 30, 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 August 23, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Robert Pearson with Heartland REMC gave an update on the broadband internet installation in the county. Pearson stated broadband would not be in small towns such as Roann and Urbana. Pearson asked the commissioners to consider including broadband for the small towns with the ARPA funds received. Downs stated the county would have to look into this because such a project may need to be put out for bids.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent, was present with nothing to report.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff, reported the jail currently has 87 inmates, with 19 additional being housed in the Miami County Jail, 21 in the Tipton County Jail and 4 in the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 24 book-ins and 6 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 89. The total inmate count was 130.

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

Steve Downs, County Attorney, presented a letter from the commissioners to the City of Wabash regarding the need for sanitary services and other utilities to be available at the site of the new jail. Eppley made a motion to the sign the letter. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Petition to the Wabash County Commissioners to vacate a portion of Wabash Street and Franklin Street in Lynn's Addition to Belden. Mike Howard, Area Plan Director, on behalf of Dylan, Brad and Austin Curless, requested to vacate the sections of Wabash Street between lots 6 & 7 and Franklin Street between lots 8 & 9 in Lynn's Addition to Beldon. With no comments from the public, Hauptert made a motion to approve the vacate. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Hauptert made a motion to suspend the rules and proceed to second reading. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Hauptert made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-85-11 on second reading. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director presented:

1. The security upgrade by SecureTech Systems, Inc. for the judicial center and courthouse (approved June 14, 2021) was found to require an additional \$600 piece of equipment. Eppley made a motion to approve the additional

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expense to be paid from Cum Cap building repairs. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

2. A request to change the cleaning schedule at the judicial center from two nights to three nights a week beginning in October thru December. Eppley made a motion to approve the additional day but asked it be reviewed near the end of the year. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. Proposals from SRKM Architecture to prepare bid specifications for restoration work on the courthouse tower and Memorial Hall. The commissioners asked Downs to review the proposals.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor, presented payroll claims and allowances for the pay period ending August 21, 2021. Hauptert made a motion to approve the claims. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Dawes asked if there were any ADA and 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. Due to the upcoming Labor Day holiday, the commissioners will next meet on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

Also present: *In-person*: First Deputy Shelly Baucco, Robert Ferguson, Nick Caley, and Wabash County Clerk Lori Draper. *Via Zoom*: Rob Burgess and Don Jervis.

**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