

## December 6, 2021

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, December 6, 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 November 29, 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.

Mark Frantz, County Attorney representative presented:

1. Ordinance 2021-85-21 An Ordinance Establishing the Wabash County Commissioner Election Districts, as required during the first year after a federal decennial census.
2. Ordinance 2021-85-22 An Ordinance establishing the Wabash County Council Election Districts, as required during the first year after a federal decennial census.

Eppley made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-85-21 and Ordinance 2021-85-22. Hauptert 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. Eppley made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-85-21 and Ordinance 2021-85-22 on second reading. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

3. Order establishing precincts to be submitted to the Indiana Election Division. The changes in the precincts are due to annexations.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent, presented via Zoom:

1. Request to advertise to receive bids for Bridge 909 superstructure replacement for the Community Crossings Grant 2021-2 des 2101599. The bids are due to be opened at 9:00 a.m. on January 10, 2022. The request was approved.
2. Agreement with Butler, Fairman and Seufert, Inc. for PASER rating inspection and reporting of all county roads for a total of \$49,980. The agreement was approved on November 22, 2021 and has been reviewed by Steve Downs and is ready to be signed. The commissioners signed the agreement.
3. Utility permit from BSM Groups for QC Communication for installation of 1-1 ¼" ducts and service wire boring west along the south side of W 50 N approximately 54', then boring N under W 50 N approximately 36'. Hauptert made a motion to approve the permit. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
4. Utility permit from Frontier Communications to place wire in the right-of-way on the south side of 50 N to restore service to 863 W 50 N. Eppley made a motion to approve the permit. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
5. Four utility permits from AEP to add fiber cable aerially across the following locations: 1200 S and 100 E, 700 E and SR 218, 1200 S and 100 E to 1200 S and 700 E, and 1200 S and 700 E to 700 E and SR 218. Eppley made a

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motion to approve the permits. Haupert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Wabash County Sheriff Ryan Baker, reported:

1. The jail currently has 86 inmates, with 19 additional being housed in the Miami County Jail and 29 in the Tipton County Jail. Last week there were 23 book-ins and 9 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 93. The total inmate count was 134.
2. An interlocal agreement with Elkhart County has been reviewed by Downs. Haupert made a motion to approve the agreement. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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

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

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director, was present with nothing to report.

Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd, presented:

1. Payroll claims and allowances for pay period ending 11/27/2021. Haupert made a motion to approve the claims. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Accounts payable claims and allowance docket for 12/06/2021. Haupert made a motion to approve the claims. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. Financial Institute Tax (FIT) semi-annual December distribution in the amount of \$157,613. Eppley made a motion to approve the distribution. Haupert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
4. Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax (CVET) semi-annual December distribution in the amount of \$107,542. Haupert made a motion to approve the distribution. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
5. LIT December distribution in the amount of \$1,176,641.62. Eppley made a motion to approve the distribution. Haupert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
6. Star Excavating contract is ready to be signed (approved September 27, 2021). Haupert made a motion to approve the contract. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
7. Kettelhut Construction contract is ready to be signed (approved October 25, 2021). Haupert made a motion to approve the contract. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Dawes asked if there were any ADA or Title VI concerns. None were presented.

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Clerk of the Courts Lori Draper presented a cooperative agreement for federal financial participation for clerks performing Title IV-D services (Federal Child Support Enforcement Program Grant CFDA #93.563). The agreement only requires the clerk's signature. Hauptert made a motion to approve the cooperative agreement and grant permission for the clerk to sign. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Gordon Miller asked several questions regarding the new jail:

1. How is the county going to transport prisoners to the courts once the jail is built? Commissioner Dawes replied the jail will have a court system within it, so many prisoners will not be transported.
2. How is the jail being paid for and how high are our property taxes going to go? Commissioner Dawes replied the jail is being funded by LIT taxes. Property Tax Relief (a credit to taxpayers) has been reduced from .50% to .40%. This .10% difference is being placed into the Correctional Facility fund (which can only be used for building or maintaining a jail.) With this change, the taxpayer will see a slight increase in their tax bill, but will still see a credit. Also, the county moved .10% from the Certified Shares and into the Correctional Facility fund. Certified Shares are revenue the county receives from the state from income tax. The Certified Shares amount is divided among all county taxing units (cities, towns, schools and libraries). Also, we are currently spending over \$1.2 million annually to house inmates in other facilities. Once the jail is built, this amount can be applied toward the construction payment.

Mr. Miller also voiced his opinion on several other topics including a junk yard, the hospital and the voting system.

Review Item: Mediacom notice to inform of programing changes and rate adjustments on January 1, 2022.

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, December 13, 2021.

Also present: *In person*: First Deputy Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Clerk of Courts Lori Draper, Trisha Hanes, Interim Chief Probation Officer and Chief Deputy Sheriff Tyler Guenin. *Via Zoom*: Rob Burgess, Kandy Barker and Melanie Penn.

**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