

June 15, 2020

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, June 15, 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. The minutes of the June 8, 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.

Keith Gillenwater, Grow Wabash County President & CEO, stated he would like to apply for a CDBG Grant. Through OCRA, grants are available for county and town businesses to retain low-to-moderate paying jobs. Grow Wabash County will be seeking a grant of \$210,000, with the county providing \$40,000 toward the local match for the grant. The grant administration costs can only be 2.5%. Grow Wabash County will be the grant administrator. Eligible businesses can seek some of this funding through a scoring process. Eppley made the motion to approve the application and the \$40,000 for the county match funds coming from the EDIT Economic fund. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Eppley made the motion to approve a letter to the USDA stating that we are seeking financing for the construction of a new jail. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Commissioners will bring the letter before the Council for their approval.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent, stated he had received a letter of interest for Bridge 652 from United Consulting and RQAW.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff, reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 78 inmates with 36 inmates housed in the Miami County Jail and the Elkhart County Jail. Total population 114.

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

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

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

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor, presented the accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 5/30/2020. Eppley made a motion to approve all claims. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Living Well is in the process of purchasing a 2019 Dodge Braun van for transit and are requesting signatures on the exemption and odometer disclosure statements.

A safety practice was implemented following the CDC Guidelines for COVID for Wabash County Government if an employee becomes ill or tests positive.

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James Dirk voiced concerns about Bridge 144 also known as Hogsback (1050S), and his disappointment in the commissioners and highway department regarding the process of the repair of the bridge. Areas residents Issac Willits, Linda Jervis, and David Milliner all spoke on behalf of repairing the bridge. Dirk stated he has a petition of over 250 signatures to re-open the bridge. Commissioner Dawes stated he believes there is a timeline on the process of the bridge and this should be entered into the record to state what has been done to date. The commissioners have taken this under advisement.

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, June 22, 2020.

Also present: Shelly Bauccho Chief Deputy Auditor, Linda & Don Jervis, Michael Johnson Garmong, Tenille Zartman, Issac Willits, John Brane, Josh Goodman, David Milliner and Meghan Brane.

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS