

November 16, 2020

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, November 16, 2020. Chairman Brian K. Hauptert called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioner's present: Hauptert, Barry J. Eppley, and Jeff D. Dawes. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd.

The minutes of the November 9, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Superior Court Judge Ben Vanderpool requested that the county consider shutting down most offices during the week of November 23, to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The county is already closed two days that week for Thanksgiving and the day after. This would allow a 9-day separation period in most departments. The commissioners stated issues involving the 24/7 operations would need to be considered. They will discuss the request and Judge Vanderpool will be notified.

Eppley stated Heartland Career Center was awarded a \$4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration to expand its facility. There is a \$1 million matching grant requirement. Wabash County is the lead applicant for the grant.

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

Wabash County Sheriff Ryan Baker presented the jail report. Wabash County Jail currently has 89 inmates with 43 additional housed in the Miami County Jail, 4 in the Tipton County Jail, and 16 in the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 18 book-ins and 10 transports to other facilities. The peak population last week was 94. The total prisoner count is 163.

Keith Walters, County EMA Director 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 the docket ending 11/16/2020. Dawes made a motion to approve all claims. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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, November 23, 2020.

Also present: Bryan Lacey, Michael Johnson, Cory Dietz, Will Alderson, and Wabash County Clerk Lori Draper