

**February 15, 2021**

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

Keith Gillenwater, CEO, Grow Wabash County conducted a public hearing for the OCRA Phase III grant. Gillenwater stated "Good morning – thank you all for attending this public hearing for Wabash County's Grant Program to grant child care providers grants to help them create new or expanded services funded by the OCRA COVID-19 Phase 3 Recovery Grant program.

My name is Keith Gillenwater, and I am the CEO of Grow Wabash County. The County Commissioners have authorized me to conduct this public hearing. This meeting is being held in-person in the commissioners' room at the Wabash County Courthouse located at 1 W. Hill Street, Wabash, IN 46992 and is being recorded. This public hearing was advertised in the February 3, 2021 edition of the Wabash Plain Dealer and notice was posted in the public hearing location as well as notice was provided to Wabash County media partners.

Wabash County is applying for funding from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for a grant from the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) COVID-19 Phase 3 Recovery Program. This program is funded by Title I of the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. These funds are to be used for a public service project that will include the following activities: Grants to child care providers within Wabash County limits. The total amount of CDBG funds requested is \$250,000. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low and moderate-income families is \$124,313. The applicant also proposes to spend an estimated \$50,000 in non-CDBG funds on the project. These non-CDBG funds will be derived from the following sources: Local funds from Community Foundation of Wabash County in the amount of \$50,000.

Grow Wabash County is the sub-recipient to this grant program and is also coordinating the administration of this program on behalf of Wabash County.

I will ask everyone to raise their hand if they wish to make a comment and I will call on you. I ask that you please state your name and address before you speak. We will record all of your comments and they will be submitted along with our packet of grant information to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

We now open this hearing for comments."

- Julie Garber spoke in favor of the grant and stated the Community Foundation will provide the \$50,000 matching grant for this project.
- Chelsea Boulrisse stated she was in favor of the grant.
- All three commissioners stated their support for the grant.

Gillenwater concluded the public hearing.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff reported the Wabash County Jail currently has 88 inmates, with 33 additional being housed in the Miami County Jail, 2 in the Tipton County Jail and 12 in the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 14 book-ins and 6 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 89. The total inmate count was 135.

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 had nothing to report.

**February 15, 2021**

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for pay period ending 2/15/2021.
2. Payroll claims and allowances for pay period ending 2/6/2021.

Eppley made a motion to approve all claims. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Shepherd also requested approval to hold a Certificate Sale for delinquent properties taxes. The sale will be held April 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the meeting room of the courthouse. This sale will be for properties that did not sell during the regular sale in October 2020. A minimum amount on each parcel to be sold is required by the commissioners. Hauptert made a motion to approve the April 14, 2021 date and place a \$200 minimum on each parcel. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Eppley read Resolution 2021-85-01

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WABASH COUNTY,  
INDIANA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CONTROL OF LAND USE  
DECISIONS**

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana, consists of diverse communities, each with its own needs and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, across the State of Indiana, Counties have created and implemented plans for development that provides the type of new investment and additional employment that is desired by the citizens of the County, and in many instances the desired development has included wind or solar projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners believes that decisions regarding wind or solar development are best made by the citizens living in the community, rather than by the wind or solar industry or State officials who live outside the community; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1381 is currently pending in the Indiana General Assembly, and if enacted such legislation would disenfranchise the citizens of the ability to determine the conditions under which wind energy and solar energy projects would be allowed in their County; and

WHEREAS, under House Bill 1381, communities would be compelled to allow wind and solar projects under conditions dictated by others living outside the community; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to express its opposition to House Bill 1381 and express its support for the rights of individuals and families living in a community to direct their own future through land use decisions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA, that the Board expresses its opposition to House Bill 1381 and any other legislation that disenfranchises local citizens of the right to make local planning decisions and direct the future of their own communities.

Adopted this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA

/s/ Jeff D. Dawes

/s/ Brian K. Hauptert

/s/ Barry J. Eppley

Hauptert made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-85-01. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.


Review Items: Wabash Valley Landfill - approved changes that are administrative in nature.

February 15, 2021

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, February 22, 2021.

Also present: *In person*: Doug Dukes, Mike Miller, Jim Christie and Tenille Zartman. *Via Zoom*: Rob Burgess, Carrie Covin and Cory Dietz.

**WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff D. Dawes  
Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry J. Eppley  
Vice-Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian K. Haupt

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor