

June 20, 2022

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, June 20, 2022. Via Zoom, Commissioner Barry J. Eppley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all three commissioners present: Eppley (via Zoom), Jeff D. Dawes, and Brian K. Hauptert. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the June 13, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Dawes made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 roll call vote.

Teresa Galley, Executive Director, Wabash County Museum, gave a review of the museum's programming. Galley stated they want to inspire children, connect families and create community engagement. The museum will be sponsoring the Wabash Founders Festival this year, along with other events. Due to needing a new HVAC system, they are requesting \$40,000 for the 2023 budget appropriation.

Elaine Bedel, CEO, Indiana Destination Development Corp - Economic Impact of Tourism, gave an overview of the total economic impact generated by visitors to Indiana. Bedel said due to COVID-19, Indiana's tourism spending was down 25.7% but tourism spending in Wabash County was down only 5.4%. Bedel said Wabash County has many attractions to attract visitors and can increase awareness by using the new tag line "IN Indiana".

Christine Flohr, Executive Director, Visit Wabash County, reported in 2021 the tourism, hospitality and entertainment industries were decimated. Despite that, Wabash County tourism spending was only down 5% and they stuck to the budget and did not request additional funds. Flohr said they kept the loss low because they pivoted to an Outdoor Adventure campaign. As they look forward to 2023, they have outlined an aggressive scope of programming to grow Wabash County as a destination. On behalf of Visit Wabash County, she would like to request the same \$75,000 in conjunction with the Agreement for Services.

Doug Bogart, Manager, Wabash County Animal Shelter, reported they are overcrowded most of the time. The building needs a new A/C and furnace and of the two trucks they have, the newest is six years old. Bogart said that they partner with the community to help feed pets when the owners can't afford it. They now offer vaccine clinics due to a low number of veterinarians in the county. He would like to add a quarantine area to the building; most other shelters have one. This would give the police an area to drop off animals after hours. Commissioner Dawes said in the past, the shelter would come get an animal when the police called and wondered if this could be a part of our agreement. Bogart said he has done this in the past, but didn't commit. Dawes asked that a copy of the budget be provided to the auditor's office for review. Bogart stated the Wabash County Animal Shelter would like to request \$80,000 for budget year 2023.

Eppley said that all budget requests will be taken under advisement.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent, presented:

1. Utility permit request from AT&T to restore service to 5174 E 300 N. Dawes made a motion to approve the permit. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 roll call vote.
2. Utility permit request from BSM Groups to install fiber optic with a plow on 1200 S. Wyatt explain the plow will put the fiber at 36 inches. Hauptert said that is how ditches get messed up and made a motion to take the request under advisement to get more information. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 roll call vote.

Marcie Shepherd for Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff, stated the jail currently has 84 inmates with 41 additional being housed in the Miami County

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Jail, 13 in the Fulton County Jail and 24 in the Tipton County Jail. Last week there were 12 book-ins and 6 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 90. The total inmate count was 161.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor, presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 6/20/2022.
2. Payroll claims/allowances and withholdings for pay period ending 06/11/2022.
3. Supplemental Operating LEVY distribution for \$98,646 to be disbursed to the county and other taxing units.
4. June Settlement distribution for \$19,788,091.44 to be disbursed to the county and other taxing units.
5. Bond Request Packet #7 for \$3,103,181.39.

Hauptert made a motion to pay all claims as presented by Shepherd. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 roll call vote.

Tosha Swanson and Noelle Herring presented a packet of information regarding the accidents which have happen on the corner of 700 W and 200 N. After telling several stories about accidents and sharing their concerns, Swanson asked for an update from the commissioners following their meeting on 6/13/22. Hauptert said an engineering firm has been contacted and will be on site Friday, June 24, 2022 for an initial inspection. County Highway Superintendent Cole Wyatt said they would then be able to give a timeframe on when the study would be done. Wyatt will also look into getting flashing lights on the two existing stop signs. Swanson asked what criteria the county follows to install a stop sign. Hauptert said we use the same as INDOT and the engineer would make that determination. Swanson also noted that the traffic flow is different during the school year because 200 N is a heavily traveled road.

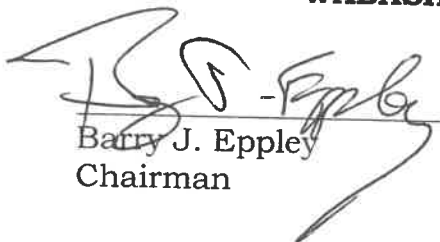
Gordan Miller made a statement that he heard we were having a county fair this year and wanted to make sure people collect sales tax if they are required to do so. He also asked why the Sheriff has a truck. Hauptert said at times it is more practical to utilize a truck.


Eppley asked if there were any ADA or 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. The commissioners will next meet on Monday, June 27, 2022.

Also present *in person*: Shelly Bauccho, Jim Dils, Josh Petruniw, Sam Hann, Elaine Bedel, Shawnte Frieden, Adam Stakeman, Scott Long, Seph Rogers, Bev Vanderpool, Tinisha Weigelt and Steve Smith. *Via Zoom*: Rob Burgess, Melanie Penn, Kandy Barker and Don Jervis.

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Barry J. Eppley
Chairman


Brian K. Hauptert
Vice-Chairman


Jeff D. Dawes

Attest: 
Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor