

April 24, 2023

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, April 24, 2023. Due to the large citizen turnout the meeting was moved to 808 Manchester Ave.

Chairman Brian K. Hauptert called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. with all commissioners present: Hauptert, Barry J. Eppley and Jeff D. Dawes. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd.

Hauptert thanked the public for their participation in the matter of the proposed Ordinance 2023-85-03 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (2022-85-14). Hauptert made a motion to accept the Wabash County Plan Commission's unfavorable recommendation and to withdraw the request from the commissioners to amend the zoning ordinance. Dawes seconded the motion. Hauptert allowed time for public comment. Jason Kuchman, attorney for No Solar Farms, spoke on the harm solar farms can do to the ground, requested setbacks be changed to ¼ mile and to extend a moratorium of Ordinance 2021-85-12 resulting in no issuance of any solar energy permits. Tami Hickman spoke on some of the proposed health issues of solar farms. Cheryl Ross spoke against the solar farms and presented a petition to stop the proposed commercial solar from developing in Wabash County. Chris Hickman spoke against solar farms coming into the county. After the public comments Hauptert called for the vote to accept the Plan Commission's unfavorable recommendation; it passed 2-0. Eppley abstained.

The minutes of the April 17, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Dawes made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Brian Swihart, Chief Probation Officer, requested permission to apply for seven DOC grants; Probation, Community Corrections, Work Release, Jail Treatment, Re-entry Court, Drug Court and Pre-trial. All are advance grants. The commissioners gave their approval to apply.

Beverly Ferry, CEO of Living Well in Wabash County CoA, requested signatures for the following:

1. 5311 Operating Grant to return funds for the de-obligation of funds for the previous grant cycle.
2. Pass through agreement for the 5311/5339 Transportation Grant.
Eppley made a motion to approve the pass-through agreement. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Cole Wyatt, Highway Superintendent presented an Authorization to Proceed from USI to collect visual and thermal data to inventory deficiencies of bridge decks and aerial imagery of the bridges. Eight bridges will be inspected. Dawes made a motion to approve the Authorization to Proceed. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff reported the jail currently has 79 inmates, with 11 additional being housed in the Miami County Jail, 2 in the Fulton County Jail and 44 in the Tipton County Jail. Last week there were 20 book-ins and 6 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 82. The total inmate count was 136.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor, presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 04/24/2023.
Eppley made a motion to approve the claims and allowances as presented. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Payroll claims and allowances for pay period ending 4/15/2023. Eppley made a motion to approve the claims and allowances as presented. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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3. Permission to apply for an Indiana Criminal Justice Save Grant. It is a reimbursable grant for \$12,100. Eppley made a motion to approve the grant application. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Hauptert 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, May 1, 2023.

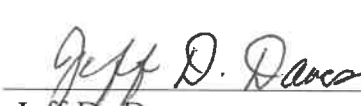
The following individuals also attended the Wabash County Commissioners meeting:

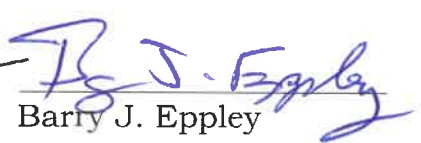
**If any names are spelled incorrectly, we apologize.*

In person: Kandy Barker, Kristy Bone, Matthew King, Gary Ridenour, Bob & Kristy Kisner, Nicky & Bill Burnsworth, Patsy Favorite, Cathy Cruze, Denny Elshire, Cory Shepler, Keith Ogen, Korey Agrstad, Louella Krom, Lisa Downs, David Cotton, Lee Smith, Mike & Gay Shoemaker, Larry & Renee Long, Lorraine Campbell, Charles & Denise Enyeart, Roger & Suzanne Peebles, Marcella Palmer, Michael & Pam Hawkins, Rod Hegal, JD Downey, David Faust, Star Luz, Richardo Luz Nava, Bonnie Keen, Shelly Mulligan, Mark Keen, Sheryl Bishop, Larry & Lisa Dale, Matt & Cathy Montel, Conrad & Diane Morris, Jim & Susan Stengel, Pat Guenin, Chris Renn, Joseph Menna, Todd & Tonya Hoppes, Joe & Libby Cook, Amanda Lyons, Max Highley, Bill Palmer, Dalen Richards, Kevin Gidley, Alex Dawnard, Colt Shepler, Randy Stout, Deb Dale, Cindy Erb, Gary & Donna Nose, Vaughn Peebles, Carrie Makin, Adam Stakeman, Korey A., Patty Lengel, Joe Vogel, Lorrinae Truss; *Via Zoom:* William Carroll, Jade Hall, Shelly Baucco, Melanie Penn, Connie, Samsung phone, Joe Slacian, Chris, Sbeeks, Pete seat, Rachel, Unger 11, 9857488577, Steve Kisner, Cheris and Don Jervis.

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Brian K. Hauptert
Chairman


Jeff D. Dawes
Vice-Chairman


Barry J. Eppley

Attest: 
Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor