

January 8, 2024

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, January 8, 2024. Chairman Jeff D. Dawes called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioners present: Dawes, Brian K. Hauptert, and Barry J. Eppley. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the January 2, 2023, meeting was reviewed. Hauptert made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Cynthia Johnson, Director of Education, Learn More Center presented a request for \$500,000 from ARPA for a long-term lease and renovation of the building at 1100 N. Cass Street. Johnson also stated they have found a strategic location in Wabash for the establishment of a new adult education and training center. This center aims to serve as a hub for empowering individuals through education, career certifications and employability training. Julie Garber, Community Foundation/Learn More Center stated the total estimated start-up cost is 1.7 million. The LMC is hoping to collaborate closely with Wabash County, IUK, Freedom Academy, Ivy Tech and others to ensure the successful completion of this project. Tenille Zartman, Grow Wabash County/LMC, stated they would like to start working on memorandums of understanding with the County, City of Wabash, and Town of North Manchester to get this project completed because it will have a profound effect on the community. Dawes expressed the commissioners' appreciation for everything LMC does for the County.

Dawes stated Larry Thrush has retired as the attorney for the BZA and Plan Commission boards. Hauptert made a motion to appoint Mark Frantz as the attorney for both boards. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Keith Gillenwater thanked the commissioners for their support during his 10 years of working with Wabash County. Gillenwater stated he is proud of what has been accomplished to foster growth in the community. The commissioners thanked him for his service and wished him well.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent, presented a road cut permit from Eads & Son to install a tile approximately 1,300' west of 400 E on 400 N. Wyatt stated the surveyor has been notified that there are regulated drains in the area. Eppley made a motion to approve the permit. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Tyler Guenin, Wabash County Sheriff's Department, presented there were 83 inmates, with 7 additional in the Miami County Jail, 24 in the Tipton County Jail, 14 in the Cass County Jail, and 28 in the Fulton County Jail. Last week there were 16 book-ins and 8 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 89 with a total prisoner count of 151.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor, presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 01/08/2023. Eppley made a motion to approve the claims and allowances as presented. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. The 2024 January LIT Distribution for \$1,475,186.34 to all taxing units. Eppley made a motion to approve the distribution. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Via Zoom: Robert Sklar asked questions about the interlocal agreement which was approved to provide ambulance service to the northern portion of the county. The interlocal agreement is between the County and the Town of North Manchester. Sklar felt the county's money should not be used to pay Parkview because he feels there is no criteria for receiving the funds. The commissioners explained the Town of North Manchester had received only the one bid and services need to be provided to the northern portion of the county.

January 8, 2024




Dawes 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 Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

The commissioners reviewed the following: DNR: Spraying for Spongy Moth in Wabash County; Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission meeting agenda for 01/10/2024 and minutes from 11/08/2023 and the Otis Bowen Center annual report.

Also present: *In person*: Shelly Baucco, Mark Frantz, Cheryl Ross, Louella Krom, Tyler Niccum, Nicky Burnsworth, Alex Downard, Bill Burnsworth, Chris Hickman, Marcella Palmer, Joseph Mienan and Dave Nelson. *Via Zoom*: Connie, Robert Sklar, Jade Hall, KBarker, Kandi, Amanda iPhone, bhegel, Wabash Resident and Don Jervis.

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

 Jeff D. Dawes Chairman	 Barry J. Eppley Vice-Chairman	 Brian K. Haupert
---	--	--

Attest: 
Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor