

**June 22, 2020**

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, June 22, 2020. Chairman Brian K. Hauptert called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all commissioners' present: Hauptert, Barry J. Eppley, and Jeff D. Dawes. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the June 15, 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.

Doug Bogart, Wabash County animal shelter manager stated the shelter is doing more than it ever did in the past. Animals are being vaccinated and spayed/neutered before being adopted out. There are several areas where additional support funds are needed including the garage, laundry area and kennels. Obtaining grants is hard for the shelter because they are no longer running a balanced budget and grant requests ask if the entity is profitable. The shelter did have a savings account but it has been depleted. Current 2020 expenses are estimated at \$185,000 and the shelter only expects revenue to be around \$175,000. Bogart is requesting a \$15,000 - \$20,000 increase for the 2021 budget cycle. The county budgeted \$60,000 for 2020. The shelter's main funding comes from the City of Wabash and the County.

Josh Winrotte, Purdue Extension interim director introduced Geoff Shortgen the new Wabash County Purdue Extension Director. Each year the county has given a 4-H donation of \$5,000. Winrotte explained the funds go toward educational outreach programs for the youth. In 2020, the funding was used for the Ag Expo, school programming and Spark Clubs. For 2021 the donation will be used for the same type of educational outreach.

Arthur Strange, with the Lagro Canal Foundation showed several photos of ongoing projects around Lagro. Strange stated that several people with ties to the Lagro area are coming back and investing in the town. In 2020 the requested support was \$10,000. Additional projects have been added, so \$20,000 is the amount being requested for 2021.

Beverly Ferry, CEO Living Well in Wabash County sent notification that due to the CARES Act, the 5311 grant has changed the grant dates to be July 1, 2020 to December 2021. The information being request is the same as before, it is simply changing the time frames for the reporting.

Sarah Lochner, Chief Probation officer requested permission to apply for the court services grants. These include community corrections, jail treatment and for a COVID relief grant that assist jails, courts, and court services. Lochner will be applying for these grants in the near future. The deadline is July 17, 2020. The commissioners consented for Lochner to submit the grant applications.

**June 22, 2020**

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent presented an interlocal agreement with the City of Wabash to purchase a bucket truck. Eppley made a motion to approve the agreement. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 69 inmates with 29 inmates housed in the Miami County Jail and 16 in the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 25 new book-ins and 15 transports to other facilities. The total population was 117.

Steve Downs, County Attorney was present with nothing to report.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented the payroll claims and allowances for pay period ending 6/13/2020. Eppley made a motion to approve all claims. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Eppley made a motion to accept a letter of support for the OCRA grant (approved June 15, 2020) and to have Barry Eppley as the official signatory for the documents. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Dawes made a motion to re-appoint Barb Burdge to the Roann Paw Paw Public Library. 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, June 29, 2020.

*Also present: Shelly Bauccho Chief Deputy Auditor, Lavonne Sparling, Barb Heinbaugh, Dawn Conley, Shawa Brown, Jerry Hults, Deb Strange, James Derck, Michael Johnson with Garmong, Josh Goodman with RQAW and Wabash Plain Dealer editor Rob Burgess.*

**WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**