

August 17, 2020

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, August 17, 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 August 10, 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.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent presented:

1. A petition he received to lower the speed limit on S. Meridian Road between Palmer Road & W 700 S. The commissioners took the request under review.
2. Stated Steve Jones of United Consulting was in attendance last week during the discussion on Bridge 144. Wyatt summarized the information he received from United Consulting who conducts the county bridge inspections. He stated that based on the load limit, the existing debris issues, and the extensive scour issues on this bridge, they recommend this bridge remain closed until it can be replaced with a structure that is more adequately sized to minimize the collection of debris and to handle the channel flow at this site. This type of project would likely require the acquisition of federal funds. Alternatively, the bridge could be permanently closed if the county is not willing or able to allocate the funds to replace it.
3. Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. reviewed the construction costs for replacing Bridge 143 and raising the approach roadway so it would not flood if the reservoir hits the emergency spillway elevation. With design fees the cost would be roughly 1.5 to 2 million dollars due to the federal aid project requirements which would have to be met to replace this bridge.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff, reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 78 inmates with 49 additional housed in the Miami County Jail, 15 in the Tipton County Jail and 12 in the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 18 book-ins and 8 transports to other facilities. The peak population last week was 89. The total prisoner count is 158.

Keith Walters, County EMA Director was present with nothing to report.

Mark Frantz, County Attorney representative was present with nothing to report.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowance for docket ending 8/17/2020.
2. Payroll claims and allowances for pay period ending 8/8/2020.

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

The commissioners reported they went to Muncie on a jail tour last Wednesday and also that the proposed new Wabash County jail project is ongoing.

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James Derck asked how much money has been spent on Bridge 144 and wanted to express his displeasure of how the bridge closing has been handled. Wyatt did not have an exact dollar amount on hand. Don Jervis asked who owns Bridge 144, the county or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The commissioners and Mark Frantz stated at this time they do not know the answer.

Sarah Lochner, County Director of Court Services requested approval to apply for the Justice Partners SIM Grant.

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, August 24, 2020.

Review Items: Demolition Notice from the City of Wabash for 244 E. Hill Street.

Also present: Chief Deputy Auditor Shelly Baucco and Tammy Wyss.

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS