

## January 4, 2021

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, January 4, 2021. Auditor Marcie Shepherd called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all three commissioners present: Barry J. Eppley, Brian K. Hauptert and Jeff D. Dawes. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. Shepherd requested nominations for the commissioner chairman. Hauptert made a motion to nominate Jeff D. Dawes as chairman for 2021. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0 vote. Shepherd turned the meeting over to Dawes who requested nominations for vice-chairman. Hauptert made a motion to nominate Barry J. Eppley. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0 vote. The minutes of the December 21, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Hauptert made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

The commissioners were assigned to the following boards:

Central Dispatch Advisory Board – Jeff Dawes

County Tax Abatement Committee – Jeff Dawes

Emergency Management Advisory Council – Brian Hauptert

Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) – Brian Hauptert

Northeast Regional Partnership – Barry Eppley

Northeast Indiana Mayors & Commissioners Caucus – Barry Eppley

Personnel Administration Committee – Barry Eppley

Plan Commission Board – Jeff Dawes

Public Records Commission – Brian Hauptert

Region III A – Brian Hauptert

Transit Advisory Board – Barry Eppley

Grow Wabash County Board – Brian Hauptert

Eppley made a motion to approve the above appointments. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

(All three commissioners are members of the Drainage Board, Redevelopment Commission, and Solid Waste Management Board.)

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent presented:

1. Plans for the highway garage improvement project for signatures on the cover sheet. Hauptert made a motion to approve the plans. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Utility permit from Frontier Communications to restore service at 13284 N 500 E. Hauptert made a motion to approve the permit. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff, reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 81 inmates, with 28 additional being housed in the Miami County Jail, 3 in the Tipton County Jail, 13 in the Elkhart County Jail and 1 in the Whitley County Jail. Last week there were 16 book-ins and 7 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 86. The total inmate count was 137.

Sheriff Baker also presented:

1. A quote of from Cottage Watchman of \$72,411 for upgrades to the camera system within the jail. Two additional companies were asked to quote but only one other response was received, which was higher. Eppley made a motion to approve the quote for \$72,411. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. A quote from Zoll Medical for the purchase of AED units to be placed in all deputy vehicles. The total cost would be \$29,000. There would be no contract or additional maintenance costs. It was stated that a grant may be available for the purchase of AEDs. Sheriff Baker will check into it. Eppley made a motion to approve the quote, if no grant is available, to be paid from Cum Cap/Jail Facility. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. Combined Public Communications (a current vendor) can add video communications and chirping to the jail to allow for video visitations. There is

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no cost to the county for this additional service. Eppley made a motion to approve the addendums to the contract. Haupert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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

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

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director was present with nothing to report.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented:

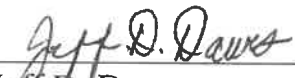
1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 1/4/2021.
2. Payroll claims and allowances for pay period ending 12/26/2020.  
The commissioners approved all claims.
3. The December 2020 settlement for approval. The total is \$16,297,529.32.  
Haupert made a motion to approve the distribution. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.


Haupert made a motion for Eppley to head up the grant process and to be able to sign on behalf of the commissioners on the following grants: Heartland Career Center, Lighthouse Mission, and Wabash County Transit. 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 will next meet on Monday, January 11, 2021.

Also present: (via Zoom) Michael Johnston, Josh Goodman, the Bat Phone, and Carrie Colvin.

**WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff D. Dawes  
Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry J. Eppley  
Vice-Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian K. Haupert

Attest:   
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Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor