

January 19, 2021

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Commissioner Jeff D. Dawes called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all three commissioners present: Dawes, Barry J. Eppley and Brian K. Hauptert. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. The minutes of the January 11, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Hauptert made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Keith Gillenwater, CEO, Grow Wabash County stated the COVID-19 Response Program was created to address the immediate impacts of COVID-19 on Indiana's rural communities. Funds are derived from the state's annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Allocation and guidance regarding how the funds may be used is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

On December 7, 2020, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and OCRA announced that a third phase of the COVID-19 Response Program is now open for applications. Eligible applicants include non-entitlement and entitlement local units of government, which may apply for up to \$250,000. Eligible activities include: mental health services, childcare services, public wi-fi locations, food pantries or food bank services, subsistence payment programs, or grants or loans to businesses to retain low-to-moderate jobs.

Phase 3 is a competitive process and communities that received an award in a previous phase may apply. After assembling representatives from the Wabash County commissioners, the City of Wabash and the Town of North Manchester the collective leadership group agreed to apply for a \$250,000 grant from OCRA to create new or expanded childcare services within Wabash County. This leadership group proposed the county be the lead applicant and Grow Wabash County act on behalf as the sub-recipient and grant administration for a 2.5% fee. The proposal is due January 29 with the full application due February 26, 2021.

Gillenwater requested approval of four grant related items:

1. Approve Grow Wabash County to apply for the OCRA Phase 3 grant funding on the county's behalf.
2. Approve the sub-recipient agreement and 2.5% fee for services provided.
3. Designate a commissioner to be the key contact for the grant application.
4. Approve Grow Wabash County to hold two public hearings on behalf of the county.

Eppley made a motion to approve applying for the grant, approving the sub-recipient agreement, designating Jeff Dawes as the key commissioner contact and approving Grow Wabash County to hold two public hearings. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ken Coffelt asked the commissioners "go on a field trip" to look at the alley next to his home in Urbana. (He first raised concerns regarding the status of that alley

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during a meeting on 8/16/19.) The commissioners agreed to go look at the alley and get back with him concerning a date and time.

Terry Burnworth, owner's representative for the jail project, presented a brief overview of the progress. Currently a committee is considering:

1. A 300-bed capacity (with expansion capabilities), booking area, kitchen/storage, sallyport and sheriff area. The total building would be approximately 90,000 square feet.
2. A location on the former county farm property.
3. At least a two-year endeavor.
4. Total cost of the project is estimated to be \$31 million.

There are several action items the council and/or commissioners need to consider including establishing a budget, determining a funding mechanism, site layout, choosing a project delivery method and civil work. A public meeting to present a project overview and respond to questions is scheduled for Thursday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the REMC building.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent was present with nothing to report.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff, reported that the Wabash County Jail currently has 83 inmates, with 33 additional being housed in the Miami County Jail, 3 in the Tipton County Jail, 12 in the Elkhart County Jail and 1 in the Whitley County Jail. Last week there were 8 book-ins and 6 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 85. The total inmate count was 133.

Baker also presented a quote from Acme Sports for the purchase of two new handguns and holsters for court security officers. The total cost is \$1,130 but with a trade-in of the current guns, the net cost would be \$630. Eppley made a motion to take the request under advisement. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Keith Walters, County EMA Director presented:

1. An update of the Comprehensive Plan for the Wabash County Emergency Management Agency. This plan needs to be updated annually in order for EMA to be eligible to obtain grants. Hauptert made a motion to approve the updated plan. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Received three quotes to purchase and install a new generator at Wabash County Central Dispatch. A reimbursable 2020 Homeland Security Grant was applied for and approved by the state for the purchase of the generator. Quality Electric submitted a quote of \$39,474, which is just under the awarded grant amount and includes the installation of a larger gas meter. Eppley made a motion to approve the quote from Quality Electric. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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Mark Frantz, County Attorney representative (via zoom) was present with nothing to report.

At the advertised time of 9:30 a.m., the meeting was held in recess for the opening of bids for the Wabash County highway building project. Eppley made a motion to close the bids. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. The following bids were received:

Hearn Construction, Inc., Kokomo, IN	base	\$292,700
Michiana Contracting, Inc., Plymouth, IN	base	\$210,800
R Yoder Construction, Inc., Nappanee, IN	base	\$238,100

Alternate bid #1 (south exterior wall) was not included in the base bid.

Hearn Construction, Inc., Kokomo, IN	\$21,560
Michiana Contracting, Inc., Plymouth, IN	\$36,100
R Yoder Construction, Inc., Nappanee, IN	\$34,000

Hauptert made a motion to take the bids under advisement. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor presented:

1. Payroll claims and allowance for pay period ending 1/9/2021.
2. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 1/19/2021.

Hauptert made a motion to approve all claims. 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 25, 2021.

Also present: (in person) Ted Redinger, Alex Downard, Chelsea Boulrisse, Brad Yoder, Trevor Moyer and Larry Hoover and (via Zoom) John Kirk.

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff D. Dawes
Chairman

/s/Barry J. Eppley
Vice-Chairman

/s/Brian K. Hauptert

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Attest: /s/Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor