

July 12, 2021

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, July 12, 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 July 6, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent, requested a road cut permit for Musselman Water Management on 675 W between 200 N and 300 N to install drainage tile. Hauptert made a motion to approve the permit. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Marcie Shepherd read the weekly jail report. The jail currently has 89 inmates, with 30 additional being housed in the Miami County Jail, 23 in the Tipton County Jail and 4 in the Elkhart County Jail. Last week there were 18 book-ins and 8 transports to other facilities. The peak population was 90. The total inmate count was 146.

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

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor, presented the monthly LIT Distribution for \$1,176,641.58. Hauptert made a motion to approve the LIT Distribution. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

The next order of business was a Public Hearing to vacate parts of County Roads 50 East and 1050 South, including Bridge #144.

Cole Wyatt, Wabash County Highway Superintendent, explained the basis for the decision to recommend that the county vacate parts of County Roads 50 East and 1050 South, including Bridge #144. The bridge has been closed more than three years. After consulting with two engineering firms, Wyatt is requesting that the county vacate several portions of these roads and Bridge #144. The primary reasons for recommending the closings are a lack of county funding sources, lack of federal funds and the cost to elevate the roads to reduce the chance of flooding.

Commissioner Dawes then asked for comments from the individuals who were present. The following persons shared their questions and concerns regarding the proposed vacation of parts of County Roads 50 E, 1050 S and Bridge #144: Janet Pattee, Marlin Pattee, Nicki Derck, Linda Jervis, Don Jervis, Dennis Schaaf, Jack Wiley, Kyle Persinger, Issac Willits, David Milliner, Jay Gillespie, James Derck, Rita Smith, Andrea Kumler, Roberta Ansel, Jerry Leshure, Jim Sorrell, Ethel McKinley and Dennis Daughtery. The comments centered on concerns about access to their homes, access to emergency services, commercial interests and the impact on the value of nearby properties.

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Commissioners Eppley, Hauptert and Dawes all expressed appreciation to these individuals for sharing their concerns. They indicated the final decision will take into consideration the information received and the funds available to maintain all bridges in the county. Eppley made a motion to take all of the information provided under advisement. Hauptert 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, July 19, 2021.

Also present: *In person*: First Deputy Shelly Bauccho, Diana Heath, David Heath, Duane Davis, Deb Dale, Dan Dale, Robert McKinley, Mike Spehn, Kaye Sorrell, Jim Sorrell, Theresa Lashure, Dr. Patricia Walters, Lori Brane and Meghan Doyle.
Via Zoom: Rob Burgess.

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff D. Dawes
Chairman

/s/Barry J. Eppley
Vice-Chairman

/s/Brian K. Hauptert

Attest: /s/Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor