

November 25, 2024

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, November 25, 2024. Chairman Jeff D. Dawes called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with Dawes, Brian K. Hauptert and Barry J. Eppley present. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Shelly Bauccho. The minutes of the November 18, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

In new business, Alan Zimmerman and Teresa Newman were present to request approval to apply to be a part of a Misdemeanor Pilot Program for Public Defenders. Zimmerman indicated they are part of the 40% reimbursement program and they have been in the program since 2007. Tracking from 2012 to current, the Public Defenders, have brought back to Wabash County \$1,569,200.42. Currently they are not being reimbursed for Misdemeanors which is most of the cases filed by the Prosecutor. The deadline to apply to be one of the 12 Counties in the program, which will start immediately, is December 6, 2024. The pilot program will be for five years, so the State Legislature will have information as to whether to decide to reimburse misdemeanors as they have been reimbursing felonies since 2007. Based on the numbers, Zimmerman indicated that in the next five years of the pilot, that they would bring in an additional \$200,000 back to the taxpayers of Wabash County. They will not be hiring any additional Public Defenders at this time as Zimmerman and Eddingfield will continue to handle the cases. They will not need to hire additional staff at the time; however, in the future they may have to. Zimmerman requested the money to be used by the Wabash County Public Defender Board. Hauptert made a motion to proceed with the application to be part of the Pilot Program; Eppley seconded the motion and it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Dawes requested to re-appoint Dan Dale to the County Board of Zoning Appeals. Eppley made a motion to accept the re-appointment. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by 3-0 vote.

Cole Wyatt requested permission for renewal of agreements with Daltons for right-of-way spraying as well as guard-rail spraying and S & M Mowing for mowing. Wyatt indicated that they both have agreed to hold the same rates as last year. The rates are for the mowing \$30 for center line mile and for spraying right of ways \$9 per center line mile and for guardrails 16 cents per lineal foot. Eppley made a motion to accept the renewal of the agreements. Hauptert seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 11/25/2024. Hauptert made a motion to approve the claims and allowances as presented. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Review items, which can be found on the Counties website, were IDEM, Office of Water Quality and POET Bio Refining for Air Quality Control.

Hauptert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eppley seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. The Commissioners will next meet on Monday, December 2, 2024.

Also present: *In person*: Dave Nelson, Cheryl Ross, Tyler Niccum, Bill Burnsworth, Nicky Burnsworth, Marcie Shepherd, Tyler Guenin, Mark Frantz, Greg Harnish, John Pollard, Mike Rehak, Mark Wood, and Kandy Barker. *Via Zoom*: Amanda Shambarger, phone, Don Jervis, Theda Metzger, shook, Chris, bhegel, iPhone 2, and akline.

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Jeff D. Dawes
Chairman

Barry J. Eppley
Vice-Chairman

Brian K. Hauptert

Attest: _____
Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor