

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, January 22, 2018 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Council Chairman Jeff Dawes announced that he has resigned from County Council because he has relocated his residence to a different county district and by law can no longer represent his former district. County Council Vice-Chairman, Randy Curless called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Six Council members were present: Randy Curless, Matthew Mize, Lorissa Sweet, Matt Dillon, Philip Dale and Kyle Bowman. Councilman Bowman led the Council in a word of prayer and Curless led in the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by the County Auditor's office.

Because of the resignation of Council Chairman Dawes, the first order of business was the election of a new 2018 County Council Chairman. Dillon nominated Randy Curless for Council Chairman. Dale seconded the nomination. No other nominations were heard so Curless called for the vote. The motion to elect Randy Curless as the 2018 County Council Chairman passed by a 6-0 vote. Curless asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Dillon nominated Kyle Bowman for 2018 Council Vice-Chairman. Mize seconded the nomination. No other nominations were heard, so Curless called for the vote. The motion to elect Kyle Bowman as the 2018 Council Vice-Chairman passed by a 6-0 vote. Curless then presented Jeff Dawes with a plaque to honor his seven years of service (2011-2018) as a County Council member.

Chairman Curless requested that those present silence their cell phones and stated that all public comments regarding agenda and non-agenda items are permitted and encouraged.

The next order of business was to review the minutes of the January 8, 2018 organizational meeting. Mize made a motion to approve the minutes. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 5-0. Dale had been absent from that meeting.

The next order of business was the appointment of Bill Parker to the Laketon Sewer District board and Sam Knight to the North Manchester Economic Development Board. Dillon made a motion to appoint these representatives to the respective boards. Dale seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote. Curless asked the Council about new representation to the boards being vacated by Dawes' resignation. Jeff Dawes stated that he would be willing to serve as a citizen representative to the County Tax Abatement board since the board is meeting soon and citizen representation is allowed. Mize made a motion to appoint Dawes as Council's citizen representative to the County Tax Abatement Board. Dale seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote. It was the consensus of Council to wait to appoint a council member to fill the vacancies to the GIS board and

Region 3A board because of the resignation of Councilman Dawes and to also designate the county liaison to replace Dawes, until a new council member is caucused in.

The next order of business was to address the additional appropriations request. Present for the request was: Highway Superintendent John Martin.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE #2018-01

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget; NOW, THEREFORE:

SEC. 1 Be it ordained by the Wabash County Council of Wabash County, Indiana, that for the expense of said county government and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2018 the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

LOIT SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION FUND– #1229

(75% of this fund designated to highway infrastructure)

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
CR 1100 N – Design Engineering #1229-30744.000.0039	\$258,000.00	\$258,000.00	6	0

Explanation submitted by Highway Superintendent John Martin: To fund the engineering for planned improvements to CR 1100N. This project is in conjunction with the Town of North Manchester and we will be applying for Community Crossing money to help pay for the construction. This is a large project involving architectural and geographical logistics (railroad crossing and utilities) from State Road 13 to Taylor Street in North Manchester.

Dale made a motion to approve the request. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

The next order of business was the Sheriff’s Annual Jail Report to Council. Sheriff Land referred to informational reports that he had distributed to Council members earlier. The report included housing information, booking statistics, criminal charge statistics, Jail incidents, staffing, programs and services, medical statistics, and transports. He specifically mentioned that there were 1,242 total admissions into the facility compared to 1,247 in 2016 and the average daily population in 2017 was 84.41 inmates compared to 83.21 inmates in 2016 but the ADP did not reflect inmates held in other facilities. The number of males booked in 2017 was 872 compared to 901 in 2016, and the number of females booked in 2017 was 370 compared to 346 in 2016. There were 375 felony cases in 2017 compared to 350 in 2016. The top incarceration offense in 2017 was drugs and all associated charges. There were 338 jail incident reports, the highest number being disorderly conduct, as compared to 423 in 2016.

Regarding staffing, a jail staffing analysis completed in 2014 for Wabash County suggested a total of 22 full-time jail officers and in 2017, the Wabash County jail employed 16 full-time jail officers, one jail commander, two assistant jail commanders and two part-time employees who are utilized on all three shifts to accommodate the preferred number of three officer working each shift. Councilman Bowman requested that the Sheriff project any need for additional jail officers in the budget for next year before there is a change in the administration in 2019. Sheriff Land stated that at this time, he thought he will be requesting four more jail officers.

Listed in the report were several services for jail inmates such as: AA/NA classes, GED classes, sobriety classes, religious services, domestic violence classes, etc. as well as counseling and mentorship. In February 2017, a Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT) treatment program was started for individuals with substance abuse problems. The program is funded by a grant obtained by Community Corrections and the Wabash County Probation Department and in 2017, eighteen people completed the program.

Medical expense increased and totaled \$154,810.79 in 2017 as compared to the 2016 expense of \$118,414.40. The increase was due to the state-mandated Medicaid program, mental health evaluations, dental bills, prescription drug costs, and TB testing.

Land stated that the department transported 1,327 inmates between DOC facilities, medical facilities and other jail facilities in 2017 as compared to 1,167 in 2016. He stated that the inmate transfer expense totaled \$750,045.00 in 2017 and that the DOC reimbursement of \$483,662.07 has been received to date. The latest reimbursement dates back to July and the County continues to wait for the remaining funds. Land stated that “transporting” may be considered insufficient to handle the jail overpopulation on the upcoming *Jail Inspection Report* and that there will be a new jail inspector this year, so it is unknown regarding the compliance outcome. Land stated that the department performs many no-charge services to the public such as 9-1-1 calls, deer accidents, and alarm calls.

The next order of business was addressing budget encumbrances from 2017 into 2018 and Auditor Shepherd submitted the encumbrance requests. There were no requests from the General Fund, \$665,129.35 from the Cum. Bridge Fund, and \$3,606.75 from the Cum. Capital Development Fund. Dillon made a motion to approve the encumbrance requests as submitted. Dale seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Council reviewed:

December 2017 Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports

December 2017 Wabash County Solid Waste Mgmt. District Income & Expense Statement

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Curless adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is Monday, February 26, 2018.

The following individuals also attended the January 22nd Council meeting:

**If any names are spelled incorrectly, we apologize.*

Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube, County Commissioners Barry Eppley and Brian Hauptert, Attorney Mark Frantz, and “The Paper” reporter Josh Sigler.