

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

The Wabash County Council met in session on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 in the Commissioner’s Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Kyle Bowman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Six Council members were present: Bowman, Matthew Mize, Sam Hann, Matt Dillon, Lorissa Sweet and Barbara Pearson. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by the County Auditor Marcie Shepherd. Bowman led in a word of prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business was the review of the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting. Dillon made the motion to approve the minutes. Pearson seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-0 vote. (Hann abstained)

The review of the minutes of the January 4, 2021 organizational meeting. Dillon made the motion to approve the minutes. Sweet seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-0 vote. (Hann abstained).

The next order of business was the review of the encumbrances.

Budget	Amount
Commissioner	\$26,000.00
Professional Services- explanation submitted: modification to the highway building was approved by the commissioners to use COVID funding, IFA approved the project, but then the reimbursement process was changed, the project was caught in the loop.	
Courthouse Complex	\$39,276.46
City Ambulance- explanation submitted: the November and December bills were not received until January. The 2021 budget is only for the amount that is due for 2021.	
Building repairs- explanation submitted: for modification of the highway building and replacing a new door at the Health department.	
Circuit Court	\$1,524.85
Equipment repairs- explanation submitted: computer and the installation were ordered in 2020 but not installed until 2021.	
Extension	\$1,748.82
Part time- explanation by Geoff Shortgen: need more help to assist with the county fair.	
High School Intern- explanation by Geoff Shortgen: due to COVID the funds were not able to be utilized for all of 2020. These funds are donated to the Extension, for the purpose of a high school intern.	
Highway	\$22,875.00
Truck/Tractor Repair- explanation by Cole Wyatt: ordered a trailer in 2020, but it was on back order and still not received. The trailer is a heavy-duty trailer for the backhoe.	

Dillon made the motion to approve the encumbrances. Sweet seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote. (Phil Dale joined via zoom)

Keith Walters, EMA Director requested the council to appropriate funds for a reimbursable grant for the purchase and installation of a generator and gas meter for Central Dispatch. Three quotes were obtained the lowest being Quality Electric for \$39,474 which is just shy of the grant. Mize made the motion to approve the request. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

- Bowman stated he had received two requests from the probation department;
1. to fill a vacancy of a probation officer. After lengthy discussions and due to several probation officer will be off work in the near future due to pregnancies. Mize made the motion to approve the request. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-2 vote.
 2. To replace part time field officers, (currently there is only one), while staying within the approved 2021 Part-time budget, but using more part-time personnel to do field checks. Dillon made the motion to approve the request. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Terry Burnworth, owner’s rep for the jail project presented a brief overview of where the project’s progress is currently standing. Currently the committee is looking at;

- 1. 300 capacity (includes expansion capabilities), booking area, kitchen/storage, sallyport and Sheriff area, total building would be approximately 90,000 sq. ft.
- 2. Located on the county farm property.
- 3. This would be a two-year endeavor.
- 4. Total cost of the project estimated to be 31 million.

There are several action items that the Council and/or Commissioners need to be considering; establishing a budget, find a funding mechanism, site layout, choose a project delivery method and civil work.

A public meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 18 at 6:00p.m. at the REMC building for the public to ask questions concerning the jail project.

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is Monday, February 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:

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

In person: County Commissioners Jeff Dawes, Brian Haupert and Barry Eppley, Sheriff Ryan Baker, and Cory Dietz.

Zoom: Council member Phil Dale, and Josh Goodman.

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

/s/ Kyle Bowman
Kyle Bowman, Chairman

/s/ Matthew Mize
Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman

/s/ Phil Dale
Philip Dale

/s/ Matt Dillon
Matt Dillon

/s/ Barbara Pearson
Barbara Pearson

/s/ Lorissa Sweet
Lorissa Sweet

/s/ Sam Hann
Sam Hann

Attest: /s/ Marcie Shepherd
Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor