

## **WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, June 20, 2022 in the Commissioner's meeting room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Kyle Bowman called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Council members present: Bowman, Matthew Mize, Barbara Pearson, Matt Dillon, Philip Dale and Sam Hann. Lorissa Sweet was absent. Dale opened with a word of prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by County Auditor Marcie Shepherd.

Chairman Bowman 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 first order of business was to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2022 meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dale seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Wabash Carnegie Library requested the re-appointment of Charlie Miller to another four-year term on the Wabash Carnegie Library Board. Dale made a motion to approve the appointment. Pearson seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Roann Library Board of Trustees requested to appoint Jennifer Draper to complete Max Gaston's term through 02/26/2023 on the Roann Library Board. Dale made a motion to approve the appointment. Pearson seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

### **RESOLUTION 2022-85-04**

A resolution authorizing a loan to finance reconstruction of the Revere Speicher drain #640B through State Road #124 for \$82,800. Eppley explained it would be a short-term loan that they might not need. The state will be reimbursing the county for these costs. The Wabash County Drainage Board voted on May 31, 2022 to approve the resolution to obtain a bank loan. After the discussion, Hann made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-85-04. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-1 vote (Dillon voting against).

### **RESOLUTION 2022-85-05**

A resolution authorizing a loan to finance reconstruction phase II of the Grossnickle Drain #562 for \$470,000. Eppley explained that this cost is an amount that the owners of the land would be assessed to repay. Hearings have been held and \$100,000 of ARPA funds have been designated for use on this drain. Dale made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-85-05. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

### **ORDINANCE 2022-85-07**

Renewal of the County Membership in the North East Regional Development Authority Eppley said that IC Code states we must renew our membership one year before it expires. This membership enables other entities in the county to apply for grants such as Eagles Theater remodel, Wabash County River Trail, and The Learn More Center in North Manchester. John Hargenrader asked what the downside to membership was and no downside was noted. Dillon talked to Keith Gillenwater about this but didn't have the ordinance to be able to review it before voting. Hann made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-85-07. Mize seconded the motion; it passed by a 4-2 vote (Dillon, Pearson voting against). Dillon made a motion to suspend the rules and proceed to second reading. Dale seconded the motion it passed by a 6-0 vote. Hann made a motion to proceed to the second reading. Mize seconded the motion; it passed by a 4-2 vote. (Dillon, Pearson voting against)

County Sheriff Ryan Baker requested body cameras be purchased in connection with a grant he is to receive for \$12,582. The initial estimated cost of equipment is \$40,322.05 with the expected renewal to cost the county \$17,832.86 per year. This is a cloud-based system that you can download clips as needed. Baker said that future costs can come out of the Commissary, but was waiting until after the jail is done before spending those funds. Dillon made a motion to approve the cost with Baker meeting with the Auditor to work out the additional appropriation prior to the next council meeting. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Next on the agenda were the requests for additional appropriations.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**  
**ORDINANCE #2022-85-03**

**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, 2022 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:**

<b>GENERAL FUND #1000</b>				
	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
<b>Personal Services</b>				
Investigator				
1000.11202.000.0008	\$7,084	\$7,084	5	1 Pearson

Prosecuting Attorney Bill Hartley explained that when reviewing what other investigators make, he found that his person was underpaid. Harley explained that this person is a law enforcement officer and that the classification of the job should have been that of a detective. Hartley went to the PAC committee and the raise was approved. Pearson expressed concern with changing the salary in the middle of the year; she does not want other offices to follow suit. Mize made a motion to approve the request and directed Hartley to budget the new salary in the next year. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-1 (Pearson) vote.

**MILEAGE:** Some requests have been received to review the current mileage paid by the county. The county currently pays .44 per mile. The State is currently re-evaluating every three months with the current rate at .48 per mile. The Federal rate is 58.5 per mile and we have been at .44 per mile since 2011. Bowman asked for reports on how much mileage we pay, if the departments will be able to pay in their current budget, and how much other counties pay. Auditor Shepherd said she would gather this information for the next meeting.

The 2022 Wabash County Circuit Breaker Report was reviewed by the council.

**JAIL UPDATE:** Commissioner Hauptert said that the jail is moving along and that the main contractor Kettelhut is impressive. Hauptert encouraged the council to stop by the site and see the progress.

Brian Swihart, Chief Probation Officer, presented the council with the Court Services Organizational Chart as they had previously requested. Wabash Court Services has 30 employees; Wabash County pays the salary for 9 full-time positions (6 probation officers and 3 support staff), two part-time positions, and two partial full-time positions (majority of salary funded through a grant). Swihart explained that when Community Corrections and Probation merged to become Wabash County Court Services, both departments are eligible to receive grant funding from the Indiana Office of Court Services and the Indiana Department of Correction. For calendar year 2022, Court Services will receive \$822,818 in grant funding, with more funding approvals expected. Council thanked Swihart for providing the information. Mize requested Swihart research other counties same size and let council know how many officers they have compared to Wabash County.

Items for Review:

Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports – April & May 2022

Solid Waste Management District Income Statements – April & May 2022

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Wabash County Council is Monday, July 18, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

**The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:**

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

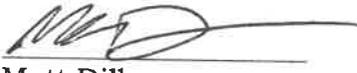
Chief Deputy Auditor Shelly Baucco, Kimberly Lundmark, Chief Deputy Sheriff Tyler Guenin, Jim Dixon, Commissioners Jeff Dawes and Brian Hauptert. Via Zoom: Rob Burgess and Commissioner Barry Eppley.

**WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kyle Bowman, Chairman

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Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman

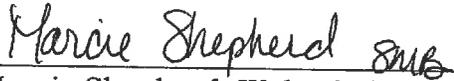
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Hann

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Dillon

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lorissa Sweet

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Philip Dale

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Pearson

Attest:   
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Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor