

February 8, 1999

Chairman, Brian Haupert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Conference Room with Darle absent. Minutes of the 2/1 meeting were approved as written, moved by Les, second by Brian, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim and Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: His crews have fixed Metropolitan Schools bus turn around areas at the Charles Morgan and Pat Jarvis homes as requested. The new sander box should be mounted this week, and the truck back on the road, and the new distributor should be here in about a week, with Gaunt & Son Asphalt purchasing the old one. Larry attended the State Emergency Management Meeting (SEMA) at the Grissom Aeroplex last Friday, and got the application needed to apply for federal aid for exceptional expenses incurred during the early January snows. Larry says the ball park figure for his worst 48 hour period is about \$12,000., and Sheriff Roberts didn't have unusual expenses to include with Larry's. Larry hasn't heard from any of the townships, and cities and towns will apply separately. He said a request to bury cable for 200 ft. on CR 700 W, 200 ft. from CR 400 N from SPRINT looks okay, and Commissioners signed approval. Commissioners signed the 1998 Co. Highway year end report as required by the State Board of Accounts, and it's on file in the Auditor's office. Commissioners set March 8, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. for the deadline to accept bids for a single axle truck chassis and a truck bed with equipment. Guardrails aren't yet installed on the Elliott Road Bridge, but crews have installed guardrails (supplied by the property owners) along the county road at Lake View Estates. Larry will have crews open the culvert on River Road if it's plugged, and says a side ditch would have to be at least 4 ft. deep to drain towards the river properly. Les said Marsha Strickler assured Commissioners last week the neighborhood would agree to side ditching to alleviate their standing water. Larry and Co. Surveyor, John Stephens, will look at the Shirley Adams property at 11352 N 200 W. She had talked to Commissioners last August about water problems, and called again last week. Terry Bell of Delaware St. in Somerset, complained to Les about bad road conditions in Somerset. Les looked at the roads, and thought 1st St. looked much rougher than Delaware. He talked with David Compton, who said 1st St. had a lot of delivery truck traffic. Compton also told Les he didn't think property owners would want to give up the islands in the cul-de-sacs, as they plant and decorate them. Road chip and seal in Somerset has been on the agenda for two years, but hasn't been done because the residents want the streets asphalted, as they feel chip and seal is too messy. Larry said YIELD to STOP sign work is almost complete from the north county line to ST.RD.16, excluding towns

Tom Mattern, Commissioner Attorney, reports the county's insurance carrier attorneys have filed a motion for extension in the Glen Barrus lawsuit, and our insurance carrier is collecting additional information in the Mark Herendeen lawsuit resulting from an accident on CR 1200 S and CR 450 W.

Bob Luce and John Speidel Jr. of Butler, Fairman & Seufert gave a final report on the Co. Bridge Inspection, and noted two new bridges have been added since the last inspection. They said applications for federal aid on bridge projects are due by March 1st, and Butler, Fairman will complete the forms, once the county has chosen the bridges. We are allowed four, and the Carroll St. bridge (#509), along with 3 bridges on Old St. Rd. 15 that count as one, leave us two openings. Several possibilities were discussed including: Ferry St. bridge # 505, bridges 163,164 & 165 in the Liberty Mills area, the # 645 covered bridge in No. Manchester, # 28 in Laketon over the Eel River, and # 13 at the Mississinewa Reservoir. Commissioners will choose after discussion with Mr. Dawes. Mr. Luce reports engineers are now required to certify to the absence of asbestos in bridge projects due to new federal regulations. Mr. Speidel will get with Dave Griffith of the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), about a cost estimate for a grant application involving the reservoir access road project in Miami and Wabash counties involving CR 950 S and CR 600 W in Wabash County. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Brian Haupert, Chairman

Darle Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor