

November 22, 1999

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order with all members present. Minutes of the 11/15 meeting were approved with a correction that an agreement with Grissom Air Base for emergency help is a mutual aid agreement. Les Templin moved approval as corrected, second by Brian, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket, the Payroll Check Register and the Accounts Payable Voucher Register. They read a letter from Joe Cochran Agency, which stated Mr. Cochran would not present a health care package bid for county employees this year. They talked with Skip Daughtry and Carrie Rees from Beauchamp & McSpadden Insurance, who asked if Commissioners are looking only at partially self-funded programs, and are they interested in variable rate deductibles. Commissioners will look at comparable fully funded programs, but want all deductibles the same. Daughtry also said they (nor anyone else) could quote a guaranteed rate in January for April 1st implementation, but their rates would be good for 30 days. Commissioners learned the Extension office Canon copy machine has arrived, and the \$4,520. claim will be paid in December. After the 90 day warranty expires, a full coverage maintenance contract goes into effect at \$900. per year for up to 60,000 copies, with .01 per copy over 60,000. Commissioners reviewed the Clerk's Monthly Report for October and the Jail/Memorial Hall custodian hours. They learned to date this year, the county has received \$17,429.07 in reimbursements thru the DMG-Maximus Cost Allocation Plan, and will pay the DMG claim for \$7,250. Brian set the record straight on ownership of the old Sears building in downtown Wabash. It was deeded to the Wabash Co. Historical Museum, Inc., a non profit group, not to Wabash County. Plan Commissioner, Chad Dilling, and Highway Supervisor, Larry Rice report a decision must be made soon about re-naming parts of U.S. 24 E that will be turned over to the county when the new 4 lane road is completed. Chad suggested CR 24, but Commissioners fear that would be too confusing. Road 524 near Lagro, will cover more area, but stay with that name. There are also two new roads ending in cul-de-sacs, that will be dedicated to the county, and need named. Commissioners will study name options. Paul Bergman, Emergency Management director, told Commissioners he's having a Y2K briefing for emergency responders on December 3rd at Honeywell Center at 7:00 p.m. Paul respectfully declined to chair the Complete Count Committee for Census 2000, when asked by Mr. Hauptert. He has several projects going, and felt he couldn't devote the needed time to promoting Census cooperation. County Treasurer, Ann Gillespie presented a possible change in tax statement forms for next year. These would eliminate bar code problems with the Post Office, as many as four statements to the same party could go in one envelope, a cover letter could be added reminding of available exemptions and the need to have personal property assessed. With mass mailing, the postage rates are lower. Address corrections at \$.50 each are available, and would amount to more the first year of the program. Ann has spoken with Treasurers' who used the process this year, and plan to do so again next year. All preparations, printing and mailing are out-sourced, so it would cost about \$1,000. more than the old forms used this year. Ann has some funds she could encumber from this year's budget to cover the increased cost. Commissioner's will support Ann if she decides to switch to the new forms.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept: They're berming, side ditching and hauling fill dirt. He also reports Wendell and Scott Dawes are working on road cut requests for new culverts, in the Laketon Road/CR 400 N area. Commissioners will look into the matter before making a decision.

Beth Miller, WASA (Working Against Substance Abuse) coordinator, presented their grant applications for 2000. Since the requests didn't exceed the \$34,875. available, the local council approved all requests, and is awaiting final approval from the state. Funds come from a specific fine levied by judges. Three quarters of the money stays here and one quarter goes to the state. Beth says teen smoking is on the rise, and Indiana is one of the worst offenders. Tobacco is often a gateway to other drugs. Les moved to support the WASA requests for final approval by the Co. Council, second by Darle Dawes, and passed.

Urbana Drainage Project: Commissioners met with Tina Byerly of Wabash Co. Farm Bureau Credit Union to sign a 6.4% loan agreement for the project. The loan becomes effective 12/1/99, with funds available as needed to a maximum of \$350,000. Payments of \$50,000. are due the 10th of January and July, beginning with July of 2000 and continuing thru July of 2003. Payments will come from the CEDIT funds allocated for the project. Darle moved to approve the loan, second by Les, and passed. All three Commissioners signed the loan. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor