

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 1/14 meeting were approved with a correction, moved by Lester Templin, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. The concrete stress tests were done at the jail, not the judicial building as stated in the minutes. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. They reviewed the Clerk's December Financial Report, the Weights and Measures monthly report and the Benicomp Insurance report for December. Les moved to approve Ordinance I-2002, establishing the County Corrections Fund, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners reviewed two quotes for borrowing \$500,000. to complete the judicial building. Wabash Co. Farm Bureau Credit Union proposed a 6.1% fixed rate line of credit with a three year term. There would be no anticipated fees or prepayment penalties and CEDIT funds plus a Council Resolution would serve as collateral. Wells Fargo Bank quoted 4.5% fixed interest for a three year loan, with semi-annual payments in July and January. The county must provide an annual report each year. Prepayment wasn't addressed, and the Auditor is to learn if that's allowed. Commissioners took the quotes under advisement. Sheriff detective, Mike Shrider, asked for and received from Commissioners, permission to buy a vehicle for the detective department, if he found one within his price range. He had found two, a 1998 Expedition for \$17,600. and a 1998 Tahoe for \$16,700., but they sold before he could get Commissioner approval. Shrider says quotes for using the van as a trade-in range from \$500. to \$600. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, reports a motion to dismiss has been filed in the federal lawsuit alleging sexual discrimination by the county. The plaintiff has filed for an extension to respond, as he is recuperating from an accident. Benicomp insurance representatives, Joe Clark, and local agent, Allen Miracle, told Commissioners at this time the county has a claims surplus of \$158,000. with a total surplus of \$220,000. They have it in a checking account right now, but the county could put it in a separate interest bearing account locally, if so desired. This is a change, because in the past Benicomp had told the county they had to keep the funds. Clark says Neil Ropp and Kathy Stanley, our former contacts, are no longer with Benicomp. They won't have new rates until closer to our April 1st renewal date. Edward Fansler and Kathryn Sipes with the Department of Commerce (DOC) and Sarah Reyman with the Rural Community Development Corp., met with Commissioners concerning the Servia water project. The DOC accepts grant applications monthly, and responds within 30 to 40 days. The application is for federal funds thru the Community Development Block Grant. The grant would be for an engineering study of needs to upgrade the water system, and must be completed within one year after the grant is approved. Servia currently has two wells, both located on private property, to accommodate the residents. They're probably not 200 feet from a septic system, and water pressure is low. Commissioners learned Servia is working on a well head protection plan. The county will serve as the applicant on the grant and receive and disburse funds. The Co. Council will address a request for a required \$3,000. in local share funds from CEDIT monies, at their 1/28 meeting. The Council would need to complete a resolution supporting the planned project. Brian signed approval authorizing Sarah to conduct public hearings on the project. John Speidel, Jr. with Butler, Fairman & Seufert (BF&S), presented a letter of notice to proceed with the countywide inspection of bridges over 20 feet, which Brian signed. The county signed with BF & S to do the work on 12/3/01, and a copy of that agreement is on file in the Auditor's office. John also presented an agreement for new right-of-way (R/W) acquisition services on Old Rd. 15 S Phase III (CR 600 S to Meridian Rd.), for Commissioner approval. There's no federal aid for this part of the project, and cost estimates include: (1) \$17,600. for management services, (2) \$8,318. for appraisals, and (3) \$19,650. for R/W purchase (both temporary and permanent), for a total of \$45,568. Darle expressed dismay that the services of BF & S are higher than the R/W purchase costs. Les moved approval to sign the agreement, second by Darle, and passed. Larry Rice says funds will have to be appropriated for this portion of the project. Brian also signed a notice to proceed with R/W engineering in accordance with the amended agreement signed 11/13/01. This covers the entire project from Meridian Rd. to CR 1000 S.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Crews have removed dead trees in road R/W that they have noticed or been contacted about. Larry learned from the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) he must have a burn permit to destroy the limbs removed from around the bridge at Hogsback. They're okay now, but a big rain could put them back against the bridge. Tyson Edwards with the DNR, has requested by letter, that the county give them control of the area at the east end of CR 250 S (Dora Rd), where it dead-ends at Salamonie Reservoir property. They would replace the county's guardrail with a locked gate. This would allow access to farm ground and the DNR wildlife crew. Since the area has little traffic, Commissioners feel it's not a safety issue, so Darle moved to allow the DNR to make the changes and maintain the area, second by Les, and passed. Only the DNR and those farming the area will have keys.

Judicial Building: Pyramid representatives, Tanya Zoellner, Mike Murphy and Carl Denman attended. Tanya presented pay application # 20 totaling \$64,773.21. Overall the project is 93% complete. Les moved to approve the pay application, second by Darle, and passed. Mike presented 5 change orders (C/O), all of which are within the budget. They include: (1) Dane Architecture \$1,678. to replace turret windows to correct an elevation error, and this is a charge to Minnick Construction, (2) Dane Architecture \$1,697.80 for 2 medium stile doors with glass, a charge to M & W Construction and a deduct from Central IN Hardware, (3) Quality Electric \$3,903. for light fixtures in the north stairs, adding lights to the closets, 2 more lights in 2nd floor courtroom, move boxes in law library and disconnect power to a shed, (4) Quality Electric \$4,750. for installation of louvers a charge to M & W, (5) Quality Electric \$1,640. to wire the dumbwaiter and move ductwork in the shaft, to be reimbursed by the Clerk's incentive fund. Les moved to approve the 5 C/O, second by Darle, and passed. Murphy says the security system isn't installed, yet, but the entry doors should be secured today. He says Tag Coating will finish up in a few weeks, Premier Services will complete stairway and finish work within two weeks. Kellam Contracting is progressing on sidewalks, but still has rip rap to move and curbing in the lower parking area to complete. He says K & M Carpet has clean up work they haven't done and more installation to be done. Dane Architecture hasn't completed their work, and is slow to respond. M & W is still in operation, even though they pulled out of our project, so they have an obligation to cover the expenses for which they are responsible. It may require litigation for the county to get what's due them, but M & W may be required by contract to pay for any legal fees incurred. Carl will check the contract and get back to Commissioners. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST:

Carol Stefanatos, Auditor