

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with Lester Templin absent due to illness. Minutes of the 2/2 meeting were approved as written, moved by Darle Dawes, second by Brian, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. They reviewed the Jan. report of insurance claims from Benicomp Insurance. They learned the county will receive \$25,072. from the IN Dept. of Corrections county misdemeanor fund about 9/1/04. Kone' Elevator notified by mail of a rate increase of 7.75 % effective 4/1/04. At this time they provide maintenance for the courthouse elevator. Verizon has notified the warranty will expire on the courthouse complex telephone system in 60 days. Darle moved to accept the "office hours" coverage at \$2,193.12 for one year, second by Brian, and passed. The other option was 24/7 coverage at \$2,741.40 per year. Commissioners noted a letter from MediaCom indicating their fees will increase with February 2004 billings. MediaCom provides cable service to unincorporated areas of Wabash County. Darle moved approval to pay the annual maintenance fee of \$1072.00 for the Extension office copy machine for 2004 second by Brian, and passed. The unit is several years old, made 203,397 copies last year, and a new drum is included in the fees. Emergency Management director, Bob Brown, reported a breakdown of FEMA funds returned to the county for repairs after last summer's devastating storms. The Town of North Manchester received a total of \$2,702.82; the City of Wabash a total of \$12,772.54; the Wabash wastewater treatment plant has received \$13,554.84 with more to come; County Highway has gotten \$35,245.86 with more to come; and REMC refunds total \$21,011.64. Bob has also received a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) grant for training, in the amount of \$2,101.82

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry says INDOT has sent notification that Co. Br. # 175 over the Wabash River on CR 700 W, near Richvalley, is ineligible for federal funds. It has not been placed on the select list, and they suggest re-applying. He received 200 tons of salt last Wednesday, and it's gone. He's ordered more, but doesn't know when it will arrive, some salt is stuck on barges frozen in rivers. Larry said that based on the contract, payments for work on the DNR road project on CR 950 S and CR 300 W is fully refundable. Commissioners agreed that recording fees for release documents may come from budgeted right-of-way acquisition funds. Commissioners signed the appraisal estimate for Kellam Kids Farm Trust, set at \$37,160.00, as part of the DNR project. Larry introduced Matt Bobay with Butler, Fairman & Seufert (BF&S), the project engineer for Phase III of the Old Rd. 15 S project. Matt says the field trailer is set up and fully operational, the contractor, E & B Paving, has established the centerline, construction limits and right-of-way for the corridor. Utility companies are finalizing plans for relocating their services. There should be more progress when the weather breaks. Matt will be in contact with Larry daily and update Commissioners monthly.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: Striker had two quotes to replace the radio recording device for the E-911 system. The Mercom system is a one channel unit with single memory and a 4 channel player for \$11,790. The World Systems unit has dual memory and eight channels for \$13,200.00, and the system is used in North Manchester. Each price includes a \$1200. trade-in. Sheriff Striker recommends the World Systems unit for compatibility and more options. Commissioners took the matter under advisement. There are 98 inmates this morning. The state will be inspecting the jail this week, and in house training is going on for new jail officers. Striker may apply for a three year, \$100,000.00 grant to provide another officer for his department. The agreement mandates the officer be kept once the grant ends, but the Sheriff said that wouldn't necessarily mean the county would have costs for an additional employee. Someone might leave or retire, and that spot wouldn't have to be filled. Commissioners say the issue is a Council decision. Leroy voiced concerns about increased traffic on Old Rd. 15 S, and potential danger at the intersection of Water Works Rd. and LaFontaine Ave. (Old 15 S) just past the viaduct on S. Huntington Street. It's within the City of Wabash jurisdiction, according to Larry Rice.

Old Rd. 15 S retaining wall at Treaty Creek: At 10:00 A.M. Darle moved to close the bids for repairs, second by Brian, and passed. Commissioners received two timely quotes. R.L McCoy Inc., of Columbia City estimates \$128,727.50 to repair with steel sheeting or a gabian wall quoted at \$113,757.50. Pioneer Associates Inc., of Leo quoted \$231,043 for steel sheeting and \$187,955. for a gabian wall. Darle moved to take the bids under advisement, second by Brian, and passed. BF&S representative, Toby Steffan, will review the quotes, but preliminarily thinks they meet specification requirements. Engineer estimates were \$191,125. for steel and \$200,125 for gabian. At 10:30 a quote was delivered by UPS. It will be returned unopened to the vendor. Toby will get Co. Br. # 175 on the select list for future federal aid. He also will get Larry Rice a bid letting date for Phase II of Old Rd. 15 S. Larry reminded Toby the county had hoped the recreational road project on CR 950 S and CR 300 W would be let earlier than the set date of April 2005, so work would be completed when the dam project is finished. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor