

March 1, 2004

Commissioner Vice Chairman, Darle Dawes, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with Brian Hauptert absent due to illness. Minutes of the 2/23 meeting were approved as written, moved by Lester Templin, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Accounts Payable Voucher Register and reviewed the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours. Les moved to contract Universal Valuation Consultants to update appraisals on county buildings at a cost of \$300.00, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, thanked Commissioners for his extended vacation opportunity. He said Cincinnati Insurance advised they're excluded from coverage in the Krista Moore estate Tort notice that includes the Sheriff and the county as defendants. The personal injury aspect of the case isn't covered by county insurance. Sheriff Leroy Striker, says the jail carrier is working on the case. Emergency Management director, Bob Brown, says the 2004 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) grant is \$3,152.92. The funds would come in three payments of 20%, 40% and 40%. Funds must be used for the CERT program. Commissioners agreed to sign the application. Bob also prepared a report on potential relocation sites for the department, the pros and cons of the options and specification requirements. HE estimates about \$35,750. to relocate, including a surprising cost of \$12,100. for a phone system. In the last facility audit in 2002, his department location scored 86 of 100 points, with the railroad proximity the major deterrent. Bob thinks his department is in the best location, now. Mike Beauchamp, with Beauchamp & McSpadden Insurance, reports his firm billed the county for fire protection coverage last June, and weren't notified by the carrier until November of an increase in the earthquake insurance premium. He increased the deductible to 10%, but there is still \$5,322.00 due. The policy covers real estate only, no personal property. He noted commercial premiums have increased 30% to 50% over the last 3 years. Commissioners agreed to pay the balance due, but asked to be kept informed on changes. Regarding workman's compensation coverage for EMA volunteers, they are now rostered in the coverage, but only eligible for medical costs, not lost wages or survivor benefits. He says they were probably dropped, as the code doesn't require that volunteers be covered. He apologized for the error, but noted it has been rectified.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Commissioners set March 22nd at 10:00 A.M. as the deadline to accept bids for a distributor truck. Mat Bobay with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, updated Old Rd. 15 S progress. E & B Paving is on site and has verified all cross sections. Matt and Ben Zobrist, also with BF&S, have determined that construction won't increase the amount of drainage to the property at 4432 S Old Rd. 15. It appears there is not sufficient ground cover at the driveway culvert to absorb the water. Matt will advise the property owner. The utility companies are progressing and should be done by the first of April, with the possible exception of NIPSCO. Toby Steffan, also with Bf&S reports the bid date for the south Phase of Old Rd. 15 S looks to be Feb. of 2005. Right-of-way acquisition is the hold-up. Commissioners say that date isn't acceptable, and want to know if the R/W problem is with BF & S or at the state level. Toby will get the answer. Toby says appraisers got a second estimate for relocation and repairs as part of R/W acquisition from Kellam Kids Farm Trust, and have revised the settlement offer to \$29,490.00, down from \$37,160.00. This is part of the DNR project on CR 950 S and CR 300 W. Commissioners held the agreement for discussion next week, but feel this eliminates any conflict of interest.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: Sheriff Striker reports there are 104 in jail this morning, and while the census has been over 100 for a while, all have beds. He commended the judges for helping whenever possible. He will be meeting with another company, Shultz, Inc. this week to discuss community corrections options. Before applying for the grant, he wants to know all his preparation needs. Leroy reported he has been awarded \$200,000. of the \$497,000. he applied for last November thru a Homeland Security grant. It was to be used to set up a station for communicating with 400 MHz systems, but isn't enough for much of a start. The state is placing towers in the northern part of the state, but there isn't one in Wabash Co., yet. He will apply again for the next phase. With no further business the meeting recessed.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle Dawes, Vice Chair

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST:_____

Carol Stefanatos, Auditor