

March 29, 2004

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order following the conclusion of the Co. Council meeting, about 10:00 A.M. Lester Templin moved approval of the 3/22 minutes as written, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours. They again compared the two quotes for elevator maintenance for the courthouse. Amco quoted \$167. per month for a 5 year automatic renewal agreement, but said they would revise to a three year contract without automatic renewal. Abell quoted \$131.00 per month with a one year automatic renewal. Abell also services the two Judicial Center elevators. Les moved to accept the Abell quote with quarterly payments at a 1.5% savings, second by Darle, and passed. Brian signed the contract. Commissioners will have a broken window on the second floor of the Probation office repaired. Co. Councilman, Paul Bergman, told Commissioners about the Presidential directive that came out March 1st, called the National Incident Management System (NIMS). It has new standards, with 18 emergency support functions for working any disaster, man-made or natural. Emergency Management director, Bob Brown, reports CERT training is completed. Co. Clerk, Lori Draper, is gathering information about using IV-D incentive funds to cover some of her bank charges. She will learn what percent of her banking involves IV-D money, and present the information to the Co. Council. Two of her staff will change roles soon, with a part time employee becoming full time and vice versa. Additional funds won't be needed.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Public safety was the topic at his meeting last week with the Corp of Engineers and Miami Co. officials. Roads are bad between the concrete plant and the dam in Wabash County. Larry will install some "speed zone" and "loose stone" signs he has in stock. He suggested they mill the road, then maintain it as a stone road until construction is complete, finally topping with asphalt. Larry told them Wabash Co. hasn't set aside funds for road repairs. There's a set back with progress on the retaining wall on Old Rd. 15 S at Treaty Creek. SEMA has misplaced the paperwork, and Butler, Fairman & Seufert Engineers are re-submitting. The contractor may have the biggest concern if he has already ordered materials. Brian signed a letter indicating no additional right-of-way is needed for the project on Bridge #13 on Mississinewa Rd. over the Mississinewa River. Because of steel price increases and the lost time between ordering and receiving a truck, Larry suggested Commissioners consider buying the demo tandem truck bid by Erik's Chevrolet at the 3/8 bid, in addition to the two trucks already approved. The package includes a 2004 C-8500 Chevrolet truck bed, plus equipment, for \$84,500.00, and will be ready soon. This bid wasn't originally accepted, as it wasn't the lowest. He would have to ask Council for an additional appropriation, for the third truck, but in the long run it might mean a savings versus the cost next year, as steel increases are estimated at about 23%. Darle moved approval, then withdrew the motion for now. Larry and Commissioners will see a demonstration test Monday at 8:00 A.M. at the highway department.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: There are 94 in jail this morning. Brian signed a second copy of the verification of plans for the 800 megahertz radio grant application. Leroy says the judges are more receptive to an "in house" work release program than one run with electronic monitoring equipment. Striker thinks a new plan drawn by Schenkel/Shultz Architects, would have more additional costs than the plan submitted by Moake Park Group which uses current EMA space. He would like to know costs to relocate deputy sheriff offices, remodeling of the evidence area, and doors to close off areas not involved in the work release program. Les suggested asking for those cost estimates for next Monday. Brian is trying to see things from a practical viewpoint. Since state funds may be used only for the Community Corrections program, he would like to get the most bang for the bucks available. If the state would improve an unimproved area of the jail at the onset, the program could always grow into the EMA area in the future. In the meantime the gun range would be remodeled, an expensive project. The Sheriff reminded EMA is a part time position for a volunteer agency, and Bob Brown stated he is employed by the Commissioners and subject to their decisions.

RoseHill Subdivision: Plan Commissioner, Chad Dilling, and Plan Commission Board members looked at the proposed site last Thursday. It's not easily accessible from the east, and the plans are based on the economics of access off U.S. 24. The 50 foot median is wide enough for a school bus, and he's trying to schedule a meeting with MSD to get their opinion of bus accessibility. Department secretary, Jennifer McColley, talked with both Miami and Huntington Co. officials, and neither intend to allow subdivisions along the highway corridor. Cass Co. thinks it's an interesting dilemma, they haven't faced yet. None have an ordinance prohibiting such development. The Planning Board is set to address the issue this Thursday. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

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Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

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Darle V. Dawes

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Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor