

JULY 12, 2004

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 7/6 meeting were approved as written, moved by Lester Templin, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. They reviewed the Benicomp Insurance June report. Since the safe hasn't been removed from the Courthouse, the damage deposit hasn't been made, and more than 30 days have passed since Commissioners notified the buyer May 26th they wanted the safe removed within 30 days, Les moved to direct the Auditor to return the winning bid of \$200.04 to Artemus Shambaugh, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, reminded the hearing about moving funds from the County Farm Home account is 7/16 at 1:00 P.M. He will remind Co. Council Chairman, Paul Sites, and expects only Brian and Paul will be asked to testify. Tom says it would be good if all Commissioners attended the hearing. He hasn't had a response from the State Attorney General, so he feels they are agreeable to the proposal. Mattern agreed the contract between the County and City Police to place radio equipment on the county tower, fulfilled the Commissioner's requests. He's working on an ordinance for Clerk of Court fees, and recommends going with interest charges for late payments, rather than a penalty clause. Commissioners agreed. WEDCOR director, Chris Martin, along with board president, David Rutledge, incoming president, Jerry Banks, and board member, Paul Sites, report they are working with the Dept. of Commerce on a \$20 million agriculture project. They continue contact with medical related business in Kosciusko Co., in the event any are looking to expand. WEDCOR is partnering with Manchester College and Ivy Tech, along with secondary education on the CORE 40 plan. Presently, WEDCOR is helping Manchester College pursue a grant. Martin says they are close to a partnership to provide wireless broadband access county wide. He noted CEDIT income has declined the last couple years, and the 3 year Capital Plan was projected on a flat income. If ambulance subsidy costs continue to come from CEDIT, the only place to cut funds is to WEDCOR. All other funds are obligated. Rutledge says WEDCOR has done good things over the last two years, and the second Revolving Loan Fund grant came thru in June. He thanked Commissioners for their support of WEDCOR during his tenure. Martin says about 40% of jobs locally, come from manufacturing, and the WEDCOR policy is to work with enlarging existing business, rather than seeking large scale new business. He continues to encourage residents to spend their money locally. He invited Commissioners to the next tour, at Smurffit Stone. Emergency Management director, Bob Brown, reports he made some revisions to the Strategic Preparedness Plan, and the EMA advisory council recommended Commissioners approve the plan, when they met last week. Les moved approval of the plan, second by Darle, and passed. All three Commissioners signed the plan. Brown says the EMA board approved using \$4200. from a \$14,000. grant, for clerical help with completing the required plans. He asked Commissioner support of using the funds for about 22 weeks of contract help. Les moved support of contracting help, second by Darle, and passed. Bob says with Commissioner approval, he may use about \$8,000. of the grant to cover his extra hours in completing the Strategic Plan and the All Hazard Plan. He worked as an independent contractor last year, using a grant. Les feels Bob is the most knowledgeable to do the work, and moved to approve the request, Darle second the motion with some reservations. The motion passed. Bob says he has applied to change how some of the 2003 Part 1 grant money will be spent, and have \$980. that was disallowed, reinstated. Equipment prices and availability have changed since the grant was originally sought.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: 36 miles of chip and seal work are completed. He has submitted an additional appropriation request for \$248,500. from Local Road & Street, to chip and seal more than the 104 miles he has money for now, based on current oil prices. The 1997 roller used for chip and seal work, is down for the 4th time, and the vendor is no longer in business, which makes repairs more difficult. Crews can roll the roads with trucks, but trucks don't do as good a job. A tree needs removed before it gets to bridge # 21 over Squirrel Creek on CR 700 N, west of CR 700 W. Hank's Construction is clearing logs around the Laketon bridge, this morning. It's the 4th time in a year. Les said David Ridenour contacted him about the chip and seal program. Ridenour felt the county might be doing more with the program than necessary. Ridenour has ruined two bicycle tires on newly completed roads. Larry will get more information about "enhancement" funds, and their availability, before Commissioners decide about repairs to the two covered bridges. Butler, Fairman & Seufert Engineers have recommended the 5 year underwater inspection requirement be removed from Bridge # 13 over the Mississinewa River. BF&S engineers don't think it's necessary, due to conditions in the area of the bridge.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: The Sheriff reports 91 are in jail today. He has a quote to repair the isolation room in the jail for \$3280.00. The Commissioners and Mr. Mattern agree with the Sheriff, that pursuing the perpetrator's estate for reimbursement isn't an option. Striker has the results of the annual jail inspection, and shared a copy with Commissioners. Facility conditions are good, but overpopulation and staffing remain an issue. Community Corrections is reviewing his grant application, and there are concerns to be negotiated, but the project is still on line for approval. With no other business, the meeting recessed.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor