

September 27, 2004

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 9/20 meeting were approved as written, moved by Darle Dawes, second by Brian, and passed. Commissioners reviewed the Clerk's August report and the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours. Commissioners reviewed a letter from the City of Wabash regarding a property at 484 Falls Avenue. The city would like it demolished or brought up to code, and asked Commissioners to attend the Board of Works meeting on 10/6. The property didn't sell in two consecutive tax sales, and wasn't offered in the 2003 tax sale. Commissioners haven't taken title to it because of liability issues. They asked their attorney, Tom Mattern to respond to the city. Commissioners will consider a request for an extra holiday at Christmas, since it falls on Saturday this year. Dec. 24th is a holiday, but the employee handbook includes both the 24th and 25th as holidays. Les said there are 15 holidays in 2004, and Darle said he had figured a long time employee could have up to seven weeks off a year with vacation time and holidays. Brian noted restoration work on the Abraham Lincoln statue began today, and they have requested space in the parking lot to store equipment. He said the county should get to work on lights. After discussion with their attorney, Les moved to take signing a "class action" lawsuit involving juvenile offenders, under advisement, second by Darle and passed. Chief of Probation, Dallas Duggan, will seek advice from Judge Vanderpool on the matter. There could be liability issues for both Probation and the county. It requires a juvenile court to run a criminal background check on an adolescent, but the DFC has no authority to run criminal checks. EMA director, Bob Brown, just attended the annual FEMA meeting. There are many goals to complete next year. There is a technology grant available for computers at no cost. Co. Assessor, Kelly Schenkel, had a proposal from The Perry Corp. for a combination copy and fax machine at \$4,000.00. Her current copy machine came from them. She thinks she could get a good fax machine for about \$500.00, and is waiting for a quote from K & R Office Supplies. She will check prices at Staples, as they give government discounts. Kelly asked where payment would come from, as the fax is used by all courthouse departments. Kelly asked if 911 funds were available to help with GIS costs for her department, as a WTH Engineering representative told her 911 had paid for their own GIS. Les said according to policy, 911 monies are only to be used for "signal send" costs, and the Auditor said 911 got a grant from the state for most of their GIS expenses. Kelly says most neighboring counties work with The Schneider Corporation for GIS services, and the counties she has talked with who have GIS thru WTH aren't happy with the service. She said costs are comparable with both, and Les said he likes the Schneider application best. Les would like to talk with Schneider representatives about their product and its potential for integrating with the WTH system in use at the Jail and Co. Highway Dept. Co. Clerk, Lori Draper and the Co. Auditor, have completed a proposal letter for a \$5000. matching grant thru the IN Dept. of Commerce, for recycled office supplies. If the proposal is approved, the grant application would have to be completed. Commissioners want the project to proceed. In response to Les, Lori says back-up plans are in place for the November election as directed by Homeland Security. David Fisher with WTH Engineering, submitted a "Request For Proposals" on bridge # 208, and told Commissioners his company would like to work with the county. Leon Metzger in Pleasant Township, asked Commissioner advice concerning an easement originally granted in 1969 and altered in 2003. He just discovered the change, which limits the easement to the time Metzger retains ownership, rather than running with the land. The area in question is part of a platted but unimproved road, and Metzger was advised about the only thing Commissioners could act on would be a petition to vacate the road. Commissioners suggested Metzger talk with an attorney, and he thanked them for their time. After discussion and review of a written response from the County Recorder, Commissioners asked the Auditor to send a copy to a former employee in that department.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Work on the Treaty Creek retaining wall on Old Rd. 15 S is moving along. Larry says Matt Bobay with Butler, Fairman & Seufert Engineers, is addressing questions from Old Rd. 15 S residents about completion delays. He says the asphalt plant will have to deal with the failed asphalt, while the county waits for them to correct the problem and finish the job. Larry expects delivery on the "demo" truck today, as the delivery truck was involved in an accident during last weeks' delivery attempt. The "demo" truck wasn't damaged in the mishap. Commissioners set November 8th at 10:00 A.M. to accept bids for next year's truck. Larry would like to include a delivery deadline of May 30th for the truck and bed, and then allow 30 days for equipment installation. He suggested a \$20. per day penalty for not meeting the deadline. He said other counties are doing that, but the downside is the possibility of fewer bidders or price increases to cover a potential penalty. Attorney Mattern said the only way to enforce a penalty would be to include it in the specifications. In response to Sheriff Striker's question, Larry thinks it's okay if semi trucks travel on CR 200 E, a gravel road, but he will look into it, and thanked Striker for the information.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: There are 98 inmates in jail this morning. He attended a class last week for dealing with mentally ill inmates, and is working with the local Mental Health Association. He has received a settlement on the totaled car, and was able to replace it at no cost. He is working towards accepting bids to replace other vehicles that are down. They're painting at the jail in the shower cell areas, and the floors will be "non slip". OSHA visited last week, and his evacuation plans are compliant.

Dallas Duggan, Probation Chief: The Community Correction Program hasn't been fully approved. Each agency has 30 days to review the application, and the Attorney General has 45 days. It may be January before the program is running. Duggan and Sheriff Striker just learned this last Thursday, but they will adapt to the change. Two people hired for the program will be retained by current employers, for now. Dallas says he is gathering quotes to make the north door of Memorial Hall an electronic card entry. The range is from \$5100. to \$5900.00. He will need an additional \$4331. for Verizon and CSI to complete wiring and cable for phones and computers, before the next County Council meeting on Oct. 25th. Darle moved for Dallas to proceed with the installation in order for the renovation project to progress, second by Les, and passed. Dallas will ask for an additional appropriation from his Electronic Monitoring funds to cover the cost. Dallas asked Commissioners to reconsider carpet over the worn and cracked terrazo floor. Commissioners will check local vendors, as they felt the contractor quote to add it was too high. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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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