

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 11/1 meeting were approved with two corrections, moved by Lester Templin, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. November 19th is the completion date for Old Rd. 15 S, Phase III, rather than 15th as indicated in the minutes. The concrete box that needs repaired is on CR 500 E rather than 500 S. Commissioners reviewed the October Financial Report, the Benicomp Insurance October report and the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours. Les moved approval of 13 holidays for county employees in 2005, second by Darle, and passed. They include: Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 25, May 30, July 4, Sept. 5, Oct. 10, Nov. 11, 24 & 25, Dec. 23, 26 and 30. Les moved to request an additional appropriation from Cumulative Capital Development funds for costs for internet access for courthouse offices in the amount of \$2300.00, second by Darle, and passed. This amount covers \$1881. for Computer Systems Inc. to provide firewall, and anti-virus protection along with a Windows update, then \$400. for Cleaver Cabeling and Consulting, to connect the fiber optics between the Courthouse & Judicial Center. Les moved approval of a revision to the agreement with MJV for cleaning services at the Judicial Center and Memorial Hall, second by Darle, and passed. MJV will clean the Probation offices 3 times a week, for an additional \$295.00 per month. Les will ask them to begin on 11/12/04. The Auditor has talked with Dick Smith, who agreed to cover the area on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when MJV doesn't clean. Les moved to approve a recommendation from Communication Consulting Services, Inc to cut local phone service costs, second by Darle, and passed. The county will switch service for four accounts from key line service to Verizon's CustoPak, which should save about \$160.86 per month, cutting the per line rate from \$44.66 to \$37.00. Commissioners asked the Auditor to contact Brent Willem with Government Utilities Technology Services (GUTS), asking him to proceed with an assessment of computer system needs for the county, per his no cost, no obligation proposal. Commissioners want something in writing indicating there won't be a charge. County Assessor, Kelly Schenkel, asked about applying for a grant to cover some costs of aerial photographs, one step toward a GIS system. The application is due 11/22, and she will gather more information to present next week. Commissioners asked their attorney, Tom Mattern, to check Indiana statutes concerning charging a user fee for ambulance services. They also will review a proposed agreement between the county and the City of Wabash for locating Emergency Management in City Hall. After hearing from Felicia Stahley with Benicomp, Commissioners chose to proceed with testing of county employees, as the first step toward a wellness program for medical coverage. Felicia has arranged for testing of blood pressure, body mass index and cholesterol levels at the courthouse on Nov. 16 & 17 between 7:00 and 9:00 A.M. each day. Employees will also be asked if they use tobacco. Testing costs will be covered by the county's insurance fund. Felicia will get a notice to advise employees of the testing. Larry Rice suggested Commissioners talk with Huntington county Commissioners before switching coverage, as they have the program, and hired a consultant who found \$86,000.00 in over charges to Huntington Co. by Benicomp.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: The final coat of asphalt is on Old Rd. 15 S, and hopefully the 3rd test will pass. Some guardrail is also installed. They're still waiting for Comcast to move their cable from the power pole that Cinergy then needs to move, so work on the retaining wall at Treaty Creek may be finished. He presented three administrative settlements for property along CR 950 S, which Brian signed. Included are: Jeff Ravenscroft, Stephen Julian and P.H. Miller Farms. Larry says a request from Verizon to replace existing cable in the north right-of-way of CR 1000 N, looks okay. Work begins at CR 650 E and proceeds west for 2,200 feet on CR 1000 N. Commissioners signed the request. Commissioners agreed that Larry may request an additional appropriation for diesel fuel in the amount of \$10,000.00, to get him thru the rest of 2004.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: There are 110 in jail this morning. He has been notified via E-mail that the County Corrections grant application was approved and stamped 11/3. He should receive the \$166,000.00 yet this week, making Wabash County one of 68 counties in the state who participate in the program. Specifications for advertising for bids to do the construction is next, and he hopes to be operational by March 2005.

Dallas Duggan, Chief of Probation: His department moved last Tuesday and Wednesday, opening to the public on Thursday. They appreciated the help from 8 inmates. Most work is completed, but the State Fire Marshall says the fire extinguishers on the third floor need tested, and there are still some interior door locks to be installed along with final work on the north doors.

Highway truck bids: At 10:00 A.M. Les moved to close bid acceptance for a truck, second by Darle, and passed. Bids included: (1) Wier's International Trucks, Inc. of Logansport at \$61,975.00 for a 2005 International 7400 cab and chassis, with delivery in late January of 2005; (2) Erik's Chevrolet of Kokomo at \$57,985.00 for a 2005 series 8500 Chevy tandem axle; (3) Denney Motor Sales of Wabash at \$55,497.00 for a 2005 GMC tandem axle, with delivery on or before 5/30/05; (4) Deeds Equipment of Lawrence at \$31,456.00 for a bed and equipment package, plus optional bid items; (5) W A Jones of Columbia City bid \$32,496.00 for an equipment package; (6) Northern Equipment of Plymouth bid \$29,415.00 as their base price for equipment. Attorney Mattern said all bids included bonds, so Commissioners took them all under advisement and review. A quote from W Hare & Son of Noblesville arrived after the bid period was closed, and was disqualified. The Auditor will return the unopened Hare proposal, along with an explanation. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor