

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 11/22 meeting were approved as written, moved by Darle Dawes, second by Brian, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, reviewed a claim application received by the county, regarding the bankruptcy of Var Tech Telecom, Inc. The phone service pays E-911 receipts to the county monthly, and those payments are current, but the county doesn't bill them for anything. Mattern concluded the county has no claim against Var Tech. Tom will proceed with creating a user fee ordinance to collect funds for ambulance services, leaving the amount blank. Brian is gathering figures. Co. Clerk, Lori Draper, reports she can buy 4, four drawer file cabinets for \$900.00, but may not need four, since two legal size cabinets were found in the old evidence room in the courthouse. She will know her needs by next Monday when the County Council meets. Lester Templin moved support of Lori buying the number of medium quality, legal size file cabinets she needs, for a maximum total of \$900.00, second by Darle, and passed. They also gave her priority on shelving from the law library, for her storage needs. Custodian, Dick Smith, has one storage room to clean in Memorial Hall, and should start clearing the microfilm room in the courthouse, tomorrow. Co. Extension office staff, Nancy Radabaugh, Matt Moorman and Diane Stout, proposed moving their offices to the second floor. Their preference would be the two Circuit Court offices and that courtroom, as those rooms would need less updating. They would need phone lines and cabling for computers and internet. They would also want a conference area, but would be willing to share that space. A new location would present a better image. Their current space in the basement is crowded, limits privacy, and is cold most of the time. If a move isn't acceptable, they would like some changes to allow more privacy. Every county has an extension office, and they haven't heard of plans to consolidate counties. Commissioners will pursue the possibility of moving their office. Commissioners spent some time looking at needs in the law library, and decided the paneling should be left, and painted to brighten the room. The dropped ceiling will be left, but additional lighting may be added. To date they have one quote for that room, but await more.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry wanted to clarify mower/tractor costs before ordering, after reading minutes of the last meeting. The total cost is \$28,882.00, and he wanted to be sure Commissioners were in agreement. They understood the total cost, and agreed to the purchase. Both Larry and Tom Mattern found that all supply quotes met the requirements, and he recommended accepting all quotes. Darle moved to accept all bids, second by Brian, and passed. A quote from Detroit Salt Company arrived by Federal Express at 2:45 P.M. on 11/22. Mr. Mattern agreed that since the other three major salt companies had declined to bid, there wasn't a conflict and it would be okay to accept the Detroit quote. Darle moved to accept the late arriving quote from Detroit Salt Company, second by Les, and passed. Progress on Old Rd. 15 S, Phase III is down to guardrail, but at some locations particularly around driveways, telephone lines need to be moved farther from the right-of-way, before railing may be placed. Larry is negotiating with the state for approval of some additional guardrail that's not in the original plans. He's asking for the 80/20 payment scale to cover the extra guardrail.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: The Sheriff reports there are 106 in jail this morning. Leroy will ask Moake Park Architects to prepare Community Corrections program renovation specifications for advertisement, so that construction may begin as soon as possible. Brian said Commissioners need to meet with a Moake Park representative so they're up to date on progress, and to give their approval to the final plans. Leroy advised that Jeff Wells begins today as a merit deputy, working the evening shift. He's experienced, and won't need academy training. He fills the post formerly held by Bryan Cox.

Bob Brown, EMA director: Bob had three proposals, all from J & K Communications, for his antenna system currently at the jail. (1) Leave the antenna's at the jail. He would need two phone lines installed at the courthouse for connection with the antenna's, plus additional necessary equipment for a total installation charge of \$8430.00. Phone installation would run \$65.50, and the monthly service fee would be \$70.60. (2) Relocate equipment to the antenna at the Solid Waste District office, and add radio's at that site for \$11,519.50. (3) Place the antenna's in the bell tower of the courthouse, with a remote line to the basement at \$12,520.50. Bob says he would lose some efficiency with option # 3, and would have to make alternate plans for amateur radio operators, who Bob would depend on in a worst case scenario. Commissioners noted they would have to give permission for amateur operators to set up antenna's in the courthouse attic, and would want a reputable electrician to verify the electrical system is adequate. Bob said amateur antenna's can't be at the same location as his system antenna. Les noted phone lines would be a "send" signal, and 911 funds might cover that cost. Les said economics would indicate leaving the antenna's in place at the jail, and moved to accept option # 1 at \$8430.00, plus phone line costs, bringing the total to about \$8700.00, thru the rest of 2004s, second by Darle, and passed. Bob will ask J & K Communications to proceed with the work. He will be two rooms short in his new space, and needs a temporary secure storage space. Commissioners agreed he may use an empty room on the second floor for equipment storage. Bob says he could make good use of the Surveyor offices and the Extension conference room, if they become available. He will ask for additional wiring when phone lines are installed, so phones could be moved across the hall without additional costs. He may need more electrical outlets in his new office, as he has much electrical equipment. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor