

December 22, 1997

Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order in the courthouse with all members present. Minutes of the 12/15 meeting were approved as written, motioned by Les, second by Darle and passed. Approved J. Dean Gifford's bond, reviewed the Treasurer's and Clerk's monthly reports, the Jail/Memorial Hall custodian hours and signed the Accounts Payable Voucher register. Commissioners approved additional appropriation requests from the highway department for additional engineering on the Carroll Street bridge (\$12,000.) and E-911 funds for a new monitor in the Plan Commission (\$250.).

Larry Rice, Highway Department: Odgen Road quotes are in from those contacted except E & B Paving. Gaunt & Son Asphalt bid \$16,585. and Phend & Brown bid \$21,518. Gaunt bid includes reseeding, Phend & Brown doesn't. About .39 acre in three parcels will need purchased for right-of-way. Les motioned to encumber \$20,000.00, the estimated amount needed for the project, from the \$75,000. appropriated for the project in 1997, and award the project to Gaunt and Son, second by Darle and passed. Larry investigated the intersections with CR 1100 N at CR 650 E, 700 E and 800 E, regarding the petition to change Yield signs to Stop signs. He says CR 800 E intersection is clear with good visibility, but there are some blind spots at the other two due to trees. Les motioned to amend Ordinance 94-9 to change the signs from Yield to Stop at the CR 650 E and 700 E intersections with CR 1100 N, second by Darle and passed. County Attorney, Tom Mattern, answering Larry's question, indicated quotes (not bids) from Hogback Gravel, which arrived late for the annual highway supplies bids, could be used if needed for supplies, since they're not bids. Larry has a permit request from Indiana American Water Corp. for road work he would like to research further before recommending approval. Much of the area is state highway land. Larry estimates an additional \$12,000. will be needed for engineering work on the Carroll Street bridge project. Much of the work (about 75%) is environmentally required. Darle motioned for Larry to ask the County Council for an additional \$12,000. for Carroll Street, second by Les, and passed. Larry has interviewed 3 applicants for a vacancy in the department. All three had good references, one is experienced with large trucks. He's waiting for drug test reports from former employers, before he offers the job to anyone. Larry reported some of the fuel storage tanks at the garage used by his department and the Sheriff's department don't meet environmental requirements. He will eliminate using the 500 gallon unleaded tanks and use only the 1,000 gallon tanks formerly used for leaded fuel storage. Larry is still investigating the water problem on the Keffaber/ Vanderpool properties. He has talked with both parties plus Tom Klare, who owns adjacent property.

Bob Luce, Butler, Fairman and Seufert, says Carroll Street bridge sewer relocation bids were done last week. The project engineer wants a written agreement between the City of Wabash and the county on the up front payment by the county for the sewer relocation. It's to be figured as part of the county's 20% share of the project. Tom Mattern and Mayor McCallen have been in contact on the matter. Bob says bid letting for Phase I of Old State Rd. 15 project is set for January.

A group of 14 concerned citizens, with Terry Hudson as their spokesman, presented information indicating abuse of vacation time by the highway supervisor. From payroll records they obtained for 1996 & 1997, they allege 19 vacation days have been used when only 15 days were available. The group also alleges 10 days of "comp time" were taken in 1997. Indicating the supervisor has falsified records and abused vacation time, they ask for his termination. He also asks for a ruling on the county "comp time" policy. Commissioners will respond to both issues at their 1/12/98 meeting. The group also alleges materials have been removed from the County Farm property, and demand the county take appropriate action. Commissioners will investigate the matter, and respond to the issue at their 1/12/98 meeting. At the time he was hired in July of 1995, Larry was granted 15 vacation days for past service. He used 10 days in 1995 and carried 5 days over to 1996, then carried 4 days over to 1997 and used all 19 vacation days. Information is from his Employee Service Record in his personnel file.

Tom & Betty Brainard of Liberty Mills, again asked Commissioners to clear an unimproved alley adjacent to their property ordered by the judge to not be vacated. Commissioners will research the issue and respond to the request at the 1/12/98 meeting.

Tim Roberts, Sheriff, reports 67 in jail this morning, only 60 in jail last Friday. The jail roof has several leaks, and Curran Roofing says it needs replaced, not patched again. Commissioners agreed Tim should get an estimate from Warsaw Roofing before any decisions are made. Current rubber roof is flat and about 18 years old.

Bill Bradley, WEDCOR, says the county has an offer to build a "spec" building at the Industrial Park. Felderman Construction of Ft. Wayne has financial backing, and will do the work, if the county and city agree to pledge \$150,000. each over the next 3 years (50,000. each year) to cover interest payments on the construction loan. After 3 years we would no longer be obligated. Bill thinks the building would be in use quickly, so the county probably would not have to make the \$50,000. payment for all 3 years. Funds would go into a bank account for direct payment towards the interest. With this project, about 40% of CREDIT monies would be tied up thru 2002. Commissioners will discuss the request with the Council at their 1/12/98 meeting.

Bill Haan of Schmidt & Associates and Mary Ellen Rudisel of Searce Rudisel Associates, would like the county to hire them to do an in depth study on courthouse renovation. The 3 to 4 month study would include interviews, 3 public meetings, would sort out needs from wants, and a final report offering several options. Cost of the study is \$9,000. They will make a presentation to the Council, and building study members will be invited.

Probation building: Ron Harris, custodian, reports the roof is leaking in about 5 places around the skylight. He will contact someone to patch around the skylight.

Courthouse dome: Ron Harris reports live pigeons were inside last week when he was in the attic. Mary Ellen Rudisel will go up there to look next week.

Bridge Inspection Proposals: Commissioners accepted all 5 quotes received prior to the December 19th cut off date. They will compare them before awarding the job.

Construction Inspection Services for Carroll Street Bridge: Commissioners set Jan. 26th at 10:30 A.M. as the deadline to accept quotes for the job.

Ann Gillespie, Treasurer, advised the Commissioners she was in contact with ATEK/Manatron, our computer services provider, concerning the reconstruction ditch program. The software is bad, and the programmer has been taken off the project. Huntington Co. is unhappy, also. Ann hopes to have more information soon.

Miami Street bridge: Work is completed, except for ^{FINISH-UP AND} paving in the spring. Final payment will be released following a final inspection report from Herb Underwood.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.