

December 8, 1997

Chairman, Brian Haupert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. in the courthouse with all members present. Minutes of the 12/8 meeting were approved as written, motioned by Les, second by Darle and carried. Darle seconded approval of the minutes with the stipulation that the policy on use of county owned vehicles be examined. The stipulation refers to a picture presented by Terry Hudson, which Terry says shows improper use of a county owned vehicle after 5:00 p.m. Mr. Hudson had also indicated his disapproval of last week's minutes, as his concerns were not fully disclosed. Brian replied Terry's allegations were personnel matters, and did not belong in the minutes. Commissioners approved payment from E-911 funds of \$579.77 for installation of an uninterrupted power system (UPS) for Pleasant Township. Commissioners reviewed Jail/Memorial Hall custodian hours, the Treasurer's Monthly Report, and the November Financial Statement.

Vince Harrell, County Agent, apprised Commissioners of the Family Nutrition Program, funded thru federal food stamp monies, and being used currently in 35 Indiana counties. He has desk space, and would like to implement the program in Wabash County. He would hire a qualified person, 20 hours a week, to instruct eligible families on nutrition and food preparation. Currently about 440 families locally, would be eligible for the program. Commissioners agree the training could be helpful, since funds are available. Vince also gave them a pamphlet titled "Indiana Land Use on the Edge". He says it's a concern of the future.

Bob Watson, Emergency Management, reports their 1983 Dodge Ram 4x4 truck was damaged in an accident on No. Cass Street last week when another driver turned into the side of it. Estimates to repair exceed the book value, but it's still drivable, and Bob thinks the engine, transmission and tires are in good shape. He will negotiate with the insurance company for a settlement that allows the county to keep the vehicle.

Tim Roberts, Sheriff, reports 73 in jail this morning. He also had accident reports in 1997 for 3 county intersections. There have been 2 at CR 600 E and CR 1100 N, and none where CR 650 E and CR 800 E intersect with CR 1100 N. This report is in response to a petition to change the signs on CR 1100 N from Yield to Stop.

Jeff LaSalle and Jeff Martin, representing GTE, enlightened Commissioners on two options for county phone systems, the Centranet network and the Norstar Meridian system. Les will compare figures, and Commissioners took the matter under advisement.

Tom Mattern, County Attorney, says a 1998 Highway Supplies quote from Metal Culverts, Inc. which arrived several days late due to a mix-up, may not be accepted.

Commissioners signed two requests from GTE to lay cable in road right-of-way. One is on CR 100 W just south of CR 400 S to Emmanuel Freewill Baptist Church, and the other is on CR 175 E from CR 1100 N north in the east right-of-way to River Road.

Jerry Lobsiger of LHRS Architects, Inc. in Huntington, gave Commissioners a written report of an estimate to complete the 4th level of the courthouse to office space. He says that's the best option, and would run between \$425,000. and \$475,000.

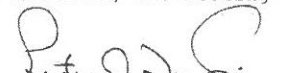
Bob Luce, Butler Fairman & Seufert, brought Commissioners the agreement on funding for removal of the sewer line on the Carroll Street bridge, signed by the state. He and Darle want a signed agreement between the county and City of Wabash for county credit towards their 20% of the bridge project. Attorney Mattern will work on it. Bid letting on sewer removal is December 17th, and Bob says his firm should have the final bridge plans to the state by April 1998. With state approval within 4 months, bid letting could be in the fall of 1998.

Beth Miller of the Local Coordinating Council presented their 1998 grant recommendations for Commissioner approval. Funds are raised locally from a \$200. drug interdiction fine sometimes assessed. Commissioners commended Beth and grant recipients with her, for their efforts to improve Wabash County communities. Project needs Council approval.

Commissioners accepted the resignation of Oris Hippensteel from the Tourism Committee, and will need to make a new appointment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Brian Haupert, Chairman


Darle Dawes


Lester D. Templeton

ATTEST: 
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor