

September 29, 1997

Chairman, Brian Haupt, called the meeting to order in the courthouse with all members present. Minutes of the 9/22 meeting were approved as written, motioned by Darle, second by Les and passed. Courthouse parking lot was re-sealed and painted last week-end. Commissioners signed an additional appropriation request for Animal Warden, Virginia Reahard, for 3 years of longevity pay due in 1997. Commissioners want Combined Benefits Services representative Azim Nassimi, notified that Wabash County will stick with a January 1, 1998 start-up date for additional benefits options for county employees or pass on the program. Commissioners reviewed the Clerk's Monthly Report and hours for Jail/Memorial Hall custodian. Les indicated Deb Schuler and St. Bernards school students cleaned things up at the County Farm Cemetery. He hasn't been out to see their handiwork, but commends them for taking on the project.

Area Five Agency on Aging and Community Services and Indiana Housing Finance Authority is closing out Wabash County's Community Development Block Grant. They are changing their focus from buying, rehabilitating and re-selling properties to low income families to rehabing homes belonging to low income families. There will be an account closing audit at some point.

Commissioners approved the final payment for the courthouse dome repairs, and commended Atlas Industries on a job well done.

Terry Husdon and Cindy Barrus spoke to Commissioners regarding county policy on "comp time" for county employees. Who qualifies, who is exempt and what are the guidelines. Terry spoke with someone at the U.S. Department of Labor who agrees with him that the verbage in the Fair Labor Standards Act is vague, but feels "comp time" normally kicks in after 40 hours. Cindy feels her husband, Glen Barrus, would qualify for past "comp time" and wants a written ruling of Commissioner's decision. They also questioned the carry over of benefits from one county position to another. Brian indicated in the case of Larry Rice, the terms were part of the negotiations to hire him. Darle feels "comp time" is being abused by some departments. Commissioners will prepare a ruling after doing some investigation.

Commissioners reviewed a letter from Haywood Printing extending their bid prices for some paper forms thru 1998. Costs would remain at 1996 levels, which is acceptable as per IC 36-1-9-9. Commissioners accepted the bid offer, motioned by Darle, second by Les and passed.

Commissioners signed a Withdrawal Resolution from the Wabash Heritage Corridor Commission. This would take effect once an application is submitted to the American Heritage River Project. There is concern about the federal government taking over land adjacent to the river. In effect, the resolution withdraws our support of the project and removes our representative from the commission.

Commissioners set dates for: County owned property sale: November 3, 1997 at 1:00 p.m. and Annual Supplies Bids: November 24, 1997 at 10:00 a.m.

Darle will contact Ray Moore of Servia regarding the alley vacation adjacent to his property. He'll ask Mr. Moore to supply us with his papers regarding the matter. No record of the proposed vacation has been located in courthouse files.

Larry Rice, Highway Department: Larry has been asked to look into changing the Yield sign at the 1400N and 100W intersection to a STOP sign. Larry says there is a woods, so the limited visibility indicates stopping for safety. Brian will get an accident count from the Sheriff before Commissioners make a decision. Darle worries eventually all roads will be 4-way stops. Larry was asked to post height and weight restrictions for Carroll Street bridge farther from the bridge, and he says it's been posted at a distance for a long time. He suggested maybe the media could publish some reminders. Work on the Miami Street bridge is to begin today, and traffic is a problem. Larry says 128 miles of chip and seal are completed, everything but Somerset. Mr. Enyeart complained crews drove over his ground when they were working on his road. Today, crews are doing double chip and seal on 150S and 500E. Meredith Speicher will fill in for Mary Ann Johnson who is on vacation next week. Les reports PSI employees recommend taking down both trees on the west side of Memorial Hall and the parking lot. They will remove the tops, and leave the rest for highway crews. Larry agreed, and they will try to set it up for next week.

Tim Roberts, Sheriff: 77 in jail this morning. His department had several calls this week-end regarding the landfill strike. Tim has a call in to the judge to request he amend the court order to lengthen the distance between opposing parties, so they have a neutral buffer zone. Tim anticipates the problems will continue until the October 21st strike vote deadline. The Sheriff's department has been awarded a grant for \$100,000. over the next 3 years to pay all expenses for an additional merit deputy. He will present the program to the County Council for their approval. Tim hasn't heard from Mary Ellen Rudisel about changes in her plans for the work release program.

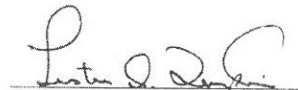
Pat Lynn told Commissioners that with help from hospital director, David Hunter, she will pursue the grant application for a local low cost clinic that would work through the hospital facility with the use of nurse practitioners and a part-time doctor. In another matter, Pat said she notified the regional authorities that our Local Planning Council has chosen to remain local and not participate in the regional council.

Shelly Neal, Family Services and County Commissioners signed a proclamation naming October as Domestic Violence Awareness month.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Brian Haupt, Chairman


Darle Dawes


Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: 
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor

September 22, 1997

Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the Commissioners meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. in the Courthouse with all present. Minutes of the 9/15 meeting were approved as written, motioned by Les, second by Darle and passed. Brian signed the Indiana Housing Finance Authority Community Development Block Grant claim forms forwarded by the Area Five Agency on Aging and Community Service. The grant will be closed Sept. 30th. Noted receipt of franchise fees for Urbana 7/96 thru 7/97 from MidAmerican Cable of \$288.31. Reviewed estimate for window cleaning submitted by Advance Window Cleaning of Ft. Wayne, learned that AAA from Marion no longer does windows, and will seek additional estimates before making a decision. Agreed to pay the claim of \$145.51, for paint for the fence between the new Animal Shelter and the recycle center. They reviewed the Treasurer's Monthly Report and the Payroll Claim and Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. Commissioners reviewed an estimate from Crystal Glass to repair 6 window screens for the courthouse, two larger screens for \$116.48 and 4 smaller screens for \$211.68. Darle motioned to repair all six screens, second by Les and carried. Darle noted he had been contacted by Ray Moore of Servia concerning a street vacation which he thought had been finalized several years ago. Commissioners will look into the matter. Les motioned to approve Clerk, Kelly Schenkel's, request to purchase a new copy machine for her office. She will split the cost with the Commissioners who have money for it in the 1998 budget. Second by Darle, the motion carried.

Larry Rice, Highway Department. The Carroll Street bridge reopened 10/19 at 1:00 P.M. as there is no structure damage according to Bob Luce, engineer. Highway crews patched the hole and they put up new height barriers. Larry noted enforcement of the height/weight restrictions could prolong the life of the bridge until the new one is completed. They plan to start on the Miami Street bridge tomorrow. They are doing double chip and seal on CR 200 E today, and 118 miles of chip and seal are completed. Larry met with DNR and INDOT representatives regarding the Pearsons Mill area road project set for 9505 between St. Rd. 13 and Mississinewa Rd. and 300W from 9505 south to the reservoir property. Part of the area included in the agreement signed by the county last year has been deleted from the project. If it's money, speed limits on the road could lower the sight distance needed and the amount of right-of-way needed, the savings could be applied toward completion of both areas. Larry will look into the matter. Mary Enright with INDOT called regarding county acceptance of St. Rd. 24 E, she says the state will repair the bridge on CR 600E, and will send a revised agreement for Commissioner signatures. Old Rd. 24 will be turned over in phases as the phases of new Rd. 24 are completed. They expect to have Phase I open in 18 months.


Mary Ellen Rudisel, Butler Fairman & Seufert: Reports the dome work is completed. The bell is beautiful, the steps to the tower have been rebuilt and the pigeons are out. She's looking into a tape of predator sounds to use as a deterrent to keep them away. She and the Commissioners went up and inspected the dome.

Tim Roberts, Sheriff: 77 in jail this morning, the count has been down for a while. Tim and Mary Ellen presented her plans for the work release center for the jail basement. The mechanical areas will be secure from the residents. It would house up to 34 people. Participants would pay 15% of their wages for room and board for the privilege. There would be 4 avenues of escape in case of fire, but once they entered the building and are searched, they stay inside until they are secured in the center. Tim has changed the criteria for being involved in work release, and one must have a "significant" job to participate. Estimated cost to set up the program which would include a full time director and a part-time employee is \$166,500. Some of those costs would be offset by the room and board payments, some work could be done internally, and Mary Ellen is going to revise her plans to convert already existing restrooms for use rather than constructing new facilities.

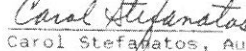
Vince Harrell, County Extension Agent, requested Commissioner approval for an Additional Appropriation request to cover accrued vacation pay for his office manager for the 1998 budget. Commissioners approved the request.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Brian Hauptert, Chairman


Darle Dawes


Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: 
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