

September 8, 1997

Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the Commissioner meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. in the Wabash County Courthouse with all present. Minutes of the 9/2 meeting were approved as corrected, motioned by Les, second by Darle and passed. The correction is in the motion to approve a variance for Riverwood Estates, Les motioned and Darle seconded the motion to allow a 3 inch 5D base asphalt topped with a 1 inch layer of asphalt. Commissioners took under advisement a bid from VanBuskirk Asphalt Sealing to fill in cracks, seal ( 2 layers) and stripe the courthouse parking lot for \$1,785. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Check Register, the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Accounts Payable Voucher Register.

Florence Dahlstrom, Chester Twp. Trustee: Regarding Senate Enrolled Act 477 reference I.C. 12-14-22-13 (4), a township trustee needs to be appointed to the Local Planning Council committee. Les will talk to Pat Lynn, who is spearheading the committee. Flo advised the Commissioners that the local township trustees were opposed to the planned regional council of the North Central Indiana Private Industry Council, as they fear Wabash County will lose out on funds in a 5 county region. Flo says Howard County is not joining the regional council, and she urged Wabash County to do the same. Commissioners will study the matter.

Larry Rice, Highway Department: The new roller has been down twice recently with engineering problems with the coupler, which affects the steering. The company is working to correct the problem, and the roller is under warranty for another year. Herb Underwood told Larry that John T. Camden Construction Co, will do the work on the Miami Street bridge, scheduled to begin on September 15th, for an estimated \$95,365. Camden construction will set up the street closing signs. Herb says getting all the utilities rearranged has been a nightmare, since there are so many, and during the construction, there will be no vehicle or foot traffic across the bridge.


Larry thinks his crews can handle the road widening project planned for Odgen Road, and will get bids to hire a bulldozer to do some of the work. He'll also contact Charlie Alvey from Bernardin & Lochmueller engineers, for further explanation of their plans. Bailey Road (500 S) is the next road due for chip and seal, and the double chip and seal on 600 W is completed. Larry said they replaced a culvert under the <sup>ROAD 47 PKE</sup> Todd Rager driveway before they did the chip and seal. In a related matter, Terry Hudson asked if there will be more berm added, as the road is not wide enough for his farm vehicles. Larry said yes. Terry also reported his cattle got out where the highway crews had broken his fence while working on road 600. Larry said he fixed the fence himself. Larry says his crews will work on the water problem on the Farr Pike after they've finished chip and seal work. Regarding Larry's concern about removing the tree on the west end of the courthouse parking lot because of power lines, and no bucket to get up high, Les said he would contact Public Service to see if they would help.

Bob Luce, Butler, Fairman & Seufert: His company will relocate the Indiana-American water lines on the Carroll Street bridge project, and Triad will move the sanitary sewer lines on the present bridge for the city. This has to be done before work can progress. The project is 80% federally funded, and Bob asked Commissioners to sign City-County Utility Reimbursement Agreements, already signed by the city. Commissioners signed the agreements with the Wastewater Treatment Plant, NIPSCO, Indiana-American Water Corp., Marcus Cable and PSI. County attorney, Tom Mattern, will negotiate with the city on an agreement for payment of the remaining 20% cost of the project. Bob also reports the bid letting on Phase I of old St. Rd. 15 (Pence Rd.) project, will be in November.

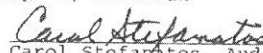
Tom Mattern, County Attorney: Noted GTE has chosen to exercise their easement option for County Farm property along U.S. 24 east. There is a John Stephens survey to provide legal descriptions of the two parcels, and GTE will pay \$1.00 per running foot. The Commissioners signed the agreement following some discussion.

Commissioners will look into hiring a county engineer to begin work in January of 1998. Brian will contact applicants from last year to see if any are interested in interviewing. There was some discussion of combining the highway superintendant and engineer positions, but Bob Luce of Butler, Fairman & Seufert, indicated that from his contact with many counties, that is rarely done and not very successful. Darle and Terry Hudson feel the formula used for averaging wages may be distorted by these positions being combined. Commissioners were advised by the Health Department that they need to appoint a new member to the board to replace Dr. Greene, who has left Wabash. It would be nice to fill the position with a veterinarian, as there has been one on the board in the past. Commissioners will make some contacts. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
Brian Hauptert, Chairman

  
Darle Dawes

  
Lester Templin

ATTEST:   
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor