

July 28, 1997

Commissioners met in regular session in the courthouse at 9:00 A.M. with all present. Les motioned to approve the 7/21 minutes as written, second by Darle and carried. The Clerk's Monthly Report, the Payroll Claim and Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register were reviewed and signed. Darle motioned to approve the Bond Rider for Clerk Kelly Schenkel, increasing her coverage as required by the State Board of Accounts, second by Les and carried. Discussed the split and broken storm drain on the east side of the courthouse. We will get estimates on repairs. Les will contact Ed Gilbert from PSI about burying the above ground power lines on the west side of the courthouse.

Larry Rice, Highway Dept.: Commissioners approved a request from GTE to bore and bury cable at 7505 N on county road 500 E. A box culvert on CR 600 E north of CR 1000 S is going to need work, and Larry suggested we get an engineer to assess the needs. There were some roads closed over the week-end due to high water, including CR 500 E and two spots on CR 1300 N. Darle heard from Duane Bechtold about a plugged culvert causing a drainage problem. CR 1400 N still has water running over it when it rains, but the build-up has held so far, and it is an improvement. It is yet to be finished with a top surface. Darle asked about building the road up more, and Terry Hudson commented the water cannot be eliminated until the area drainage problem is addressed, and neighbors agree to spend some money. Darle noted Urbana is still having high water problems.

Jim Burd of Riverwood Estates: Asked Commissioners to amend the road specifications for the county to take over maintenance of a road. He lives on a one mile stretch ending in a cul-de-sac, with about six homes located there presently. The cost to asphalt the road is prohibitive, and the developer wants to finish it with chip and seal. Commissioners agreed they cannot set precedent by making an amendment in this case, and will stick with the mandatory requirements now in place. Brian suggested the group might be able to make an agreement with the school corporation for bus pick-up if they keep the road cleared in bad weather.

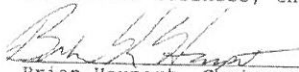
Pat Lynn, Step Ahead of Wabash County: She would like her group to head up the Local Planning Council for Welfare Reform. Marjorie Justice of the Welfare Department, agrees it could be beneficial, as the Step Ahead program is in touch with local people and their needs. Pat will get a plan established, and she and Marjorie are conferring on a demonstration project. Pat will send Commissioners a list of potential board members who have indicated interest in being appointed to the board. Brian noted John Hennelly had contacted him about being involved in the project. Les motioned to appoint Step Ahead of Wabash County as the entity in charge of the new Local Planning Council for Welfare Reform, second by Darle and carried.

Mike Williams, Indiana Testing, Inc.: His company specializes in drug and alcohol testing. They work in 39 counties, currently, and do random on site testing. They also help with setting policies, instructing about meeting requirements and necessary record keeping. The information was passed on to Larry Rice as the highway department must have this testing done.

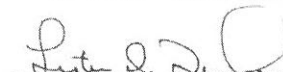
Tim Roberts, Sheriff: Regarding converting the jail basement to a work release facility, Tim is having trouble getting estimates for the needed work. Commissioners agreed to ask architect, Mary Ellen Rudisel, from Scarce & Associates in Warsaw to look at it. Two air conditioning units went out last week, one less than a year old is under warranty, and the only charge will be for labor. The other is much older, and will have to be replaced. Prisoners painted the inside of the recreation area.

County Attorney, Tom Mattern, and Commissioners discussed solutions to the skate board, roller blade and bicycle problem on the courthouse grounds. They are concerned about both safety for the participants and damage to the grounds and structures.

Commissioners met with the State Board of Accounts Auditors for a report on their annual audit. The county got a good report with only minor changes suggested. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Brian Hauptert, Chairman


Darle Dawes


Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: 
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor