

June 2, 1997

Commissioners met in the Commissioners' room of the Courthouse at 9:00 A.M. with all present. Minutes of the 5/26 meeting were approved as written, motioned by Les, second by Darle and passed. Chairman Hauptert noted the minutes of the 5/19 meeting should be corrected to show the visit to see communication equipment was to Blackford Co., not Kosciusko Co.

Larry Rice, Highway Department: Commissioners approved a request from CTE for buried cable on the south end of CR 325 E (north of SR 114) north for 886 feet. At 9:30, Les motioned to close quotes for a bid for the new highway department truck, second by Darle and passed. There were three quotes received: Fontaine Truck Equipment Co. of Indianapolis quoted \$19,529.50, Northern Equipment Co. of Plymouth quote was \$18,423.00 and Deeds Equipment Co. of Plymouth quoted \$20,173.00. Les motioned to take the bids under advisement, second by Darle and passed. Later in the day Larry returned with a breakdown on the quotes, and following discussion and a decision by the Commissioners to have the bid installed by highway department personnel, Les motioned to accept the bid from Northern Equipment of \$18,423.00 (less \$500.00 for installation) second by Darle and carried. The truck is due in about a month. Cindy Barrus representing her husband Glen, highway department employee, submitted his request for pay for accrued vacation time of 52 days. She requested the money be paid this year from highway department funds budgeted for a county engineer, rather than waiting until the end of 1998 as planned by Commissioners. Commissioners took the matter under advisement and will respond in writing to Mr. Barrus as requested. Larry will discuss with City of Wabash officials concerns he has over what area's the county will still be responsible for adjacent to the newly annexed property.

Petition to vacate part of CR 325 W: Attorney Al Schlitt, representing property owner Pauline Shively Daggott, made the request, indicating notice had been given to Norman, Bob E. and Tommy J. Slack, the other involved property owners. The county has not maintained the road for several years, and they would like the vacated road divided between them. There being no objections, Commissioners signed Ordinance # 97-2 vacating a portion of CR 325 W from the north side of CR 900 N just west of the Bel River, then following said CR 325 W in a northeasterly and then northerly direction to where it intersects the north line of the fractional southeast quarter of Section 16, Township 29 N, Range 6 E, said road being the boundary line between the Shively/Slack properties. Darle motioned to approve the vacation, second by Les and passed. Auditor is directed to record the ordinance for public record.

Wabash County Hospital Board Appointment: Following discussion of the hospital recommendation of John Phillipson, Vice President and Treasurer of Harkhon, Inc., to replace Ben Schooby on the board, Darle motioned to appoint Mr. Phillipson, second by Les and passed. In future, Commissioners plan to have more input in the process.

Chris Brown, Lifelord: Had documentation of the number of Medicaid write-off's for 1996 in the amount of \$61,631.84 (non collectible funds) with a potential additional loss of \$8,785.98. He estimates 25% of his runs are for Medicaid patients. He will submit a written request to the Commissioners for an increase in his 1998 budget from \$67,500.00 (1997 budget) to \$87,500.00

County Attorney, Tom Mattern: Had an agreement from Triax Cable that extends their contract for service from 10/99 to 10/2004. He advised Commissioners not to sign, and they concurred. Commissioners signed a contract between the county and the City of Wabash covering the terms of agreement of the city's new rescue truck. The county contributed \$60,000.00 towards the purchase in exchange for service to county residents. Mr. Mattern will get Mayor McCallen's signature on the document. Mr. Mattern also noted receipt of a Notice of Tort Claim filed on behalf of Denny R. Bragg, who was allegedly injured when his wheelchair tipped over on the handicap ramp at the courthouse, Dec. 9, 1996. He will forward the information to the insurance company. Richard E. Truitt of Huntington is the attorney for Mr. Bragg. County employees were apparently unaware of the incident prior to the notice.

Chad Dilling, Plan Commission: Documents from the Federal Emergency Management Agency concerning the requirement of flood plain elevation certificates on individual properties is not yet mandatory, and will not be required in Wabash County, as it is a sizable expense to the property owner to have a survey done.

Ann Gillespie, County Treasurer: Still having odor problems from a chimney vent in her office. Architect, Mary Ellen Rudiscl says covering vent will not interfere with vent work on the roof. Les motioned to seal up the opening in the Treasurer's office, second by Darle and passed.

Courthouse renovation, Mary Ellen Rudiscl, Architect: There are two issues past the critical stage, (1) the courthouse roof needs replaced, and (2) the vents where the corner chimney's were removed need capped, at an estimated cost of \$125,000.00. Space is also a prime concern, and she would advocate relocating the court's, Clerk's offices and probation department into a facility adjacent to the jail. This could be a new structure on the southwest corner of the courthouse square, or a renovated building in the same block as the jail. Attorneys, Don Metz, Al Schlitt and Larry Thrush, representing the Wabash County Bar Association, commended the Commissioners on their effort to preserve the courthouse and encouraged them to press forward with the project, as the courts are very overcrowded. A Building Study Committee will meet June 23rd at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the study report with the architect. Members include the three Commissioners, County Council members Joann Rauh and Gary Nose, Attorney Stephen Downs, Don Hinsonson, Cheri Slac, and one yet to be appointed from Les Templin's southern district. Commissioners thanked Mary Ellen for her preliminary work, and asked her to have a roof inspector look at the roof.

Board of Health appointment: Commissioners appointed Dr. Stephen Fassino to fill the position vacated by the resignation of Dr. Joe Anderson. The term would run thru December of 1999. Motioned by Les, second by Darle and passed.

Darle noted the Urbana Fire Department would like to vacate an alley adjacent to the department. Commissioners agreed they would need to follow the normal policy of advertising, setting a hearing date and preparing an ordinance.

Les had a request to use the Roann Covered Bridge for a wedding on July 5, 1997 at 12:30 P.M. He will advise her to contact the Roann Lions club for scheduling.

Commissioners reviewed the Clerk's Monthly Report, the May Financial Statement, and signed the minutes, the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Accounts Payable Voucher Register. There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Brian Hauptert
Brian Hauptert, Chairman

Carle Dawes
Carle Dawes

Lester Templin
Lester Templin

ATTEST: Carol Stefanatos
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor