

January 10, 2000

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners Conference Room of the courthouse, with all members attending. Minutes of the 1/3 meeting were approved as written, moved by Lester Templin, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. Les moved to re-appoint Barry Eppley to the Wabash City Plan Commission Board for a 4 year term thru 2003, second by Darle, and passed. After reviewing a suggestion from Trula Frank, director of the Wabash Co. Convention and Visitors Bureau, Les moved to appoint Judy Patten to the Tourism Commission thru the end of 2000, second by Darle, and passed. Patten, manager of the Wabash Inn, will complete the unexpired two year term of Bindu Patel. Commissioner Attorney, Tom Mattern, and Marvin Gheen from Life Med Ambulance Service, discussed with Commissioners, renewal of the Life Med contract with the county. Since nothing in the contract prevents Life Med from asking for funding assistance from the Town of North Manchester, Les moved to renew the current contract thru 2000, second by Darle, and carried. The Commissioners and Mr. Gheen signed the agreement with the county subsidy remaining at \$77,500. Commissioners reviewed three responses to their employee health insurance inquiry. Both Carrie Rees, with Beauchamp and McSpadden Insurance, and Joe Hurry, with Employee Benefit Specialists, declined to submit a proposal. Paul Bergman submitted a proposal from Benicorp. BENI-COMP, our current insurer, reported on 11/29/99, they would not have a proposal before the end of February. Commissioners plan to set a 2/21 meeting for employee insurance committee members to review proposals and listen to presentations.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway dept.: Reports crews have done 133 miles (on both sides of the road) of berming and side ditching. Both school bus turn around requests are completed. Northern Equipment, who just outfitted the new International truck for the highway department, delivered in November, but on the road for the first time today, has received a list of complaints from Larry, for their shoddy workmanship in an effort to cut costs. Northern also got the bid to outfit a second truck set for delivery in February. Larry says in the future he can do "specs" to eliminate cutting corners after the bid is accepted, but the "specs" will be several pages longer. Commissioners told Larry to take the truck back and tell Northern to fix the problems. Larry asked Commissioners to consider advertising a used truck, grader and roller for sale. They either don't work, or aren't used any longer. They will think about it.

Somerset area emergency response: David Compton, Somerset, told Commissioners the Somerset volunteer fire department met last week with members from the Wabash City and Converse Fire departments, in an effort to provide the best service for the Somerset area. There is an agreement between the county and the Converse department for service, and the Sheriff's department first contacts Converse via radio, with Wabash as the last option.

Wabash, with trained paramedics, is often the first to respond to a call. Since the Sheriff now has equipment that can make dual calls, the group would like to go with multiple responses to all calls, and Commissioners agreed to a one year trial. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Brian K Hauptert, Chairman

Darle Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor