

October 10, 2000

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 10/2 meeting were approved with corrections, moved by Lester Templin, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. The name Linda Harris was corrected to Linda Allen and thermoplasty to thermoplastic. Commissioners reviewed the Memorial Hall/Jail custodian hours. They learned Linda Allen had called the Auditor and withdrawn her application for the Weights and Measures director position. Phillip Van Baalen, Miami Co. Weights and Measures director for 3 years, introduced himself to the Commissioners, and told them he would like to be considered for the job in Wabash Co. He had just heard of the opening, so he missed the application deadline. He also offered his help in training, if someone else is chosen. After discussion with attorney, Tom Mattern, Les moved to extend the application deadline for the Weights & Measures position to 10/10/00 at noon, second by Darle, and passed.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry had reviewed the requests for proposals (RFP's) for bridges # 13 & 28, and says the main differences are overhead rates and completion times. Butler, Fairman & Seufert (BF&S) had the lowest overhead rates, RQAW the shortest completion time on # 13, United Consulting shortest time on # 28 and Bernardin & Lochmueller had the highest overhead rates. After discussion, Les moved to select BF&S for bridge # 13 carrying Mississinewa Rd. over the Mississinewa River and United Consulting for bridge # 28 carrying CR 200 W over the Eel River, second by Darle, and passed. Larry talked with Steve McCammack with the state highway, who said he would add guardrail at the Brandon property near the intersection of Cr 600 E and CR 650 E with new 24 E, and he'll look, again, at guardrail needs at the intersection. McCammack suggests Commissioners send Jim Keefer, Ft. Wayne, a letter listing reasons why they feel guardrail is needed at this intersection. Larry thinks the contractors and consultants have tried hard to meet area resident requests. Commissioners approved a letter for Somerset residents regarding street upgrades, and Larry will get them mailed promptly. He said 3 locations don't have driveway pipe, but it may not be necessary for them to have pipe installed. Darle doesn't think pipe is always necessary, and Commissioners told Larry to use his best judgement on what's needed.

Tim Roberts, Sheriff: 74 in jail this morning. Tim commended Co. highway crews' work in moving the former DNR tower to Laketon, and Tim hopes to have inmates scrape and paint it this week. LaFontaine officials have verbally agreed with Tim to have E-911 equipment placed on their water tower, without a monthly charge to the county, since this is a government service that benefits their community. Tom Mattern will prepare a 10 year contract for Commissioners and LaFontaine Town Board members to sign. The contract will address rent free tower space, some county responsibility for liability, installation and repair costs to the equipment, and have a 180 day termination clause. Sheriff Roberts presented an inmate Medical Services Agreement for 2001 for Commissioner review and approval. Dr. Bill Rauh agrees to provide emergency and non-emergency medical services for inmates, provide a licensed medical assistant, and each will visit the jail once a week to treat inmates. Rauh will receive \$1,541.67 a month for his services and the assistant will get \$25. per hour for services rendered. Inmates must pay \$10.00 each time they see the doctor. Darle moved to approve the contract, second by Les, and passed.

Old Rd. 15 S: Jim Hamilton and John Speidel, Jr. with BF&S say there are three choices: (1) continue the project as planned, (2) don't do anything, (3) proceed with bridge repairs with or without the road work by putting them on the federal bridge list. Talk included setting one value rate, and offering payment to all adjacent owners, going thru condemnation proceedings, where the judge hires appraisers to set the value, or having the co. highway dept. chip and seal the road. The area north of Rd. 124 is in worse shape, but the bridges are in the area south of 124. Brian notes considerable up front money for engineering services has already been spent. Mattern suggests setting a value, making an offer, and if refused, drop the project and chip and seal. The project shouldn't be held hostage by a few individuals. Jim and John will be back on the 30th with some cost estimates for the various options that work within the federal guidelines. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

Attest: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor