

December 18, 2000

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with Darle Dawes arriving late. Minutes of the 12/11 meeting were approved as written, moved by Lester Templin, second by Brian, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket, the Payroll Check Register and the Accounts Payable Voucher Register. They reviewed the October and November Treasurer's reports, the Clerk's November report and the Jail/ Memorial Hall custodian hours. They accepted a Certificate of Recognition from the U.S. Census Bureau for their cooperation with the census count. After reviewing an offer from ABS Business Forms to extend the 2000 bid prices thru 2001, for Class 2A and 2B printing supplies, Les moved to accept the price extension, second by Darle, and passed. Tom Haste and Jeff Stinson with Prince/Alexander Architects, updated on judicial building progress, and reviewed the pay applications approved last week by Commissioners. They learned WEDCOR director, Bill Bradley, is working with the Town of LaFontaine to set up an Economic Development Commission there. They want to do a property tax abatement for an incoming business. The Co. Council would make an appointment to the three member board.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Crews are doing what they can to get and keep the roads plowed. They started at 4:00 A.M. today, and already four trucks have been stuck. The wind is making progress difficult. Larry advised Commissioners the City of Wabash proposed stormwater drainage surcharge, will hit the county hard, due to the size of our properties. He has nothing budgeted to cover a cost increase, and hopes the county will be represented at the 1/8/01 meeting at City Hall at 6:00 P.M. Phil Amones talked with Pat Lynn, who is on the board, but didn't get many answers. Since the Terex front-end loader isn't used much, and battery replacement isn't cheap, Commissioners asked Larry to get a value estimate, and they may offer it for sale. Commissioners also asked Larry to get estimates for a new car for his use. Les and Brian think a four wheel drive vehicle would be helpful, but Darle isn't sure it's necessary. Larry's car needs repairs, and is an early 90's vintage. The former county engineer's car could be traded, too.

Tim Roberts, Sheriff: Tim told Commissioners a written snow emergency policy would help his dispatchers give consistent answers to callers. He presented a copy of the Huntington County two level ordinance. Commissioner's would make the decision to call a level one snow alert, travel at your own risk, or a level two snow emergency, all vehicles prohibited except emergency vehicles. Vehicle owners would be responsible for a towing cost for their abandoned vehicle, and a fine for violating the ordinance could be imposed. After discussion, Les moved to approve a two level ordinance, using the Huntington Co. plan as an example, including the towing charge penalty, but deleting a penalty fee for violations, second by Darle, and passed. With no further business, the meeting adjourned. Commissioners will next meet on 1/2/01.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor