

January 27, 2003

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 1/21 meeting were approved as written, moved by Brian Hauptert, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. They reviewed the Clerk's December Report and the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours. They noted the county will receive \$25,072.00 of the \$4.1 million appropriated to the Co. Misdemeanant Fund for fiscal 2002-2003. For housing persons convicted of a misdemeanor locally, the funds should arrive about 9/1/03. Brian moved to sign Resolution 2003 - I, to establish Emergency Management as the local lead agency for Homeland Security and Emergency Management director, Bob Brown, as local Homeland Security director, second by Darle, & passed. The resolution was reviewed last week. Commissioners agreed to be the governing body for the Court Appointed Special Advocate program (CASA) at the request of program director, Mary Ellen Clark. Her grant application is due 2/1/03, and needs a Commissioner signature. Les will sign. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, reports a lawsuit filed by a disgruntled inmate of both the Wabash Co. and Huntington Co. jails, has been passed to the insurance carrier by the Sheriff. Commissioners aren't named as a defendant, and Tom hasn't found a TORT notice in his records, which could be a prime reason for dismissal of the case. He also sent Commissioners copies of letters from the law firm of Bloom Gates Sigler and Whiteleather, regarding the Co. Council budgeted payments to the Bowen Center for 2002 and 2003. Bowen Center has agreed to refund \$1,167.20 paid in error by the Co. Auditor's office, but takes issue with the budgeted amount set by the Council, which does not adhere to statute. Commissioners plan to make changes in the employee policy manual regarding "comp time" and overtime, along with stipulations for use of bereavement benefits. They will stipulate when vacation time is credited to employees each year. Commissioners discussed establishing a hiring freeze, in an effort to alleviate the potential need to lay-off employees.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry presented a bridge inventory map, prepared by Butler, Fairman & Seufert (BF&S) engineers, as part of their bridge inspection project. It will be hung in the Commissioner's meeting room. BF&S told Larry a new bridge could be added to the FA-3 application for federal grants to repair bridges, since the Laketon bridge has been bid. Larry will ask BF&S for their recommendation, but his suggestion would be the Ferry St. bridge in Wabash or bridge # 175 over the Wabash River in Richvalley. He responded with a "no thanks", to a letter from Noble Co. regarding an historical bridge they have for sale. Larry says two trucks are down for repairs, but he expects the two new ones ordered last May to arrive by the end of next week. The box culvert on CR 100 S hasn't been installed, due to the extreme cold. He has talked with Sheriff Striker regarding trains blocking crossings on CR 300 N and CR 400 N for extended periods, although likely nothing can be done. Brian told Larry both STOP signs at the CR 400 N crossing are gone.

Co. Health Dept.: Lester read several letters, dated 1/25/03, from Board of Health Chairman, Dr. Jeffrey Pyle. At their 1/14/03 meeting the board accepted the resignation of William Dannacher as the Co. Health Officer, effective 1/21/03. Commissioners also received a resignation letter from DR. Dannacher effective 1/21/03. Brian moved to accept Dr. Dannacher's resignation as submitted, second by Darle, and passed. The Health Board appointed Lynn Dannacher as the Food Sanitarian Specialist with a starting date on or after 1/22/03. Due to the ongoing health concerns of Deputy Registrar, Sue Karen Decker, and her inability to return to her job, her position as Deputy Registrar is terminated. The board appointed Kathryn Napier as the Deputy Registrar. The board appointed Jennifer Swango as the Vital Records Clerk and assistant to the Registrar. The Health Board held a special meeting via telephone conference on 1/25/03 to appoint a Health Officer. Dean Gifford, MD, was approved by a majority vote to serve a four year term, effective as early as 1/28/03. Dr. Gifford is the board's recommendation to the Commissioner's as the Co. Health Officer. Brian moved to approve Dr. Gifford's appointment as Co. Health Officer for a 4 year term thru 1/28/07, second by Darle, and passed. Gary Knable, an applicant for the food sanitarian position, asked Commissioners if the Health Board reviewed the applications submitted. Commissioners referred him to Dr. Pyle. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Hauptert

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor