

February 18, 2003

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 2/10 meeting were approved as written, moved by Brian Hauptert, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed the Clerk's January Report and the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours. Brian moved to approve a proclamation supporting Severe Weather Week, March 2nd thru 8th, second by Darle, and passed. Emergency Management director, Bob Brown, whose department emphasizes its safety procedures involving tornado activity during this week, recommended the proclamation. Commissioners reviewed a report from Indiana American Water Corporation on water quality at the Probation building. Samples taken on 2/5/03 were clear and met all state and federal regulations. Commissioners will advise Probation chief, Dallas Duggan, they will pay the claim for bottled water they have been holding, but none after that. Commissioners will also pay the Circuit Court claim for wall and desk calendars, but consider it an unnecessary expense, and will refuse further frivolous claims. They will warn all departments that spending must be curtailed. Commissioners hope to have medical insurance renewal proposals from Benicomp by their March 3rd meeting, then will meet with department heads to map a plan. Representatives from Beauchamp and McSpadden ISU and Resource Financial are interested in quoting for county coverage, and say an increase of more than 10% should encourage the county to look elsewhere. Commissioners approved County Assessor, Kelly Schenkel's request to purchase Blue Books for all townships, as required by law. Les says a claim from Quality Electric for needed repairs after the transformer outside the courthouse burned, should be paid, and a copy mailed to Cinergy along with a total cost for lost time due to the loss of power. The repairs cost \$ 2,869.88. Brian moved to accept a quote from Clear View Windows and More, North Manchester, to clean the lobby windows on the inside only, for \$ 325.00, second by Darle, and passed. Included in the quote are windows on the 2nd and 3rd floors overlooking the lobby. The quote from Clear View is dated 12/24/02 and a verbal quote of \$900. from White's Cleaning Service in Peru was given to Commissioners at their 1/6/03 meeting.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry says right-of-way (R/W) along CR 300 N varies between 36 ft. and 38 ft. where Wabash Valley Power Assn. proposes work for the Hopewell substation. In some instances they might need approval from adjacent property owners. Brian moved to sign the Consent and License Agreement to Utilize Public R/W between the county and Wabash Valley Power, so the project may proceed, second by Darle, and passed. Larry has returned the truck delivered last week, as the underbody was too low. Larry says a multiplate installed in the late 1990's has been damaged, although there's no accident report on record. Located between Whites Residential Services and Southwood School, the department will attempt repairs when the weather warms and there's no risk of it popping from the cold. Larry checked a report of road deterioration in Somerset. He thinks the concern is that trucks aren't making the turn at Shopping Center Road and Maple Street. It's a large intersection, but the drain is damaged. He says guardrail's in similar sit-uations don't last, but maybe a concrete block would deter trucks from cutting the corner short. Larry says he's about out of salt, and funds for salt purchases. He has some ordered, and has enough in other line accounts to cover for now, but he will ask Council for an additional appropriation when he has a handle on how much is needed.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: Sheriff Striker proposed a change in clothing allowance policy for his department, that would streamline workload. Allocated funds would be given to employees at the beginning of each year, they would then be responsible for clothing purchases throughout the year, rather than the current policy of presenting purchase claims. He asked Commissioners to approve payment of the balance of each employee's 2003 clothing allowance on 3/1/03. Brian noted concern about the drain on Co. General funds, and Les says the Sheriff will forfeit any control over how the money is spent. There's also the questions of whether employees would be taxed on the cash income and whether funds would be available for outfitting new employees. Commissioners made no decision today, but will research the matter. Commissioners agree the Sheriff should present proposals for ordinances to the Council next week, as a means of raising funds to cover the cost of court security. One would assess a fee of \$25.00 from anyone who is convicted of a misdemeanor or felony, or enters a deferral program thru Wabash County courts. The second proposal would impose a \$25.00 fee each time an inmate checks into the jail as part of an intermittent detention. Sheriff Striker will also inform Council on the option to use police vehicles with advertising on them for a 3 year period for a lease fee of \$1.00 per car. At the end of the term, the cars must be stripped of equipment, painted and returned. The Sheriff would have discretion over the advertisements. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Hauptert

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor