

March 17, 2003

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 3/10 meeting were approved as written, motioned by Brian Hauptert, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours and the Benicomp insurance report for February. They learned the State Budget agency has notified the county the Co. Adjusted Gross Income Tax (CAGIT) and the Co. Economic Development Income Tax (CEDIT) distributions will be reduced by 10% and 6.7% respectively for 2004, due to a slower economy. Wabash County CAGIT receipts will drop \$551,749. to \$4,949,133.00, while CEDIT will drop \$91,687. to \$1,283,533.00. These funds are distributed in May and November. Commissioners learned Quality Electric has repaired the courthouse boiler to meet state inspection requirements, so it should pass, now. They agreed Art Curry of Art's Convenience store, could have radiators removed from the courthouse as long as he hauled them away. Commissioners approved a claim from Purdue University for the county share of 6 months wages (Jan. thru June) for Extension agents Vince Harrell and Nancy Radabaugh, in the amount of \$16,470.00. Emergency Management director, Bob Brown, explained the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan grant. As phases of the plan are completed and approved by the state, portions of the grant are released in increments of 5%, 10%, 35% and 50%, after the finalized plan is approved by the state. The plan must be completed by December, but Bob thinks he'll finish by September. Bob proposes the grant funds be used to pay himself plus contracted help, to complete the grant requirements. Bob has already been approved for another grant in the amount of \$2,798.60, and if the county doesn't accept the grant, funds will be divided among other participating counties. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) grant is primarily for expanded training of the response team, but may be used for some equipment purchases. Brian moved to approve both grants, choosing Option 2 on the Comprehensive Plan, second by Darle, and passed. Option 2 allows the county to complete the performance measures with county employees, volunteers and/or contractors. County Assessor, Kelly Schenkel reminded Commissioners they need to make appointments to the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals, soon. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, reports he's working with City attorney, Robert McCallen III, on an ambulance contract. The letter to Minnick Construction, requesting the return of funds, was mailed 3/10, now halfway thru the 14 day deadline, he hasn't heard from them or received the certified receipt. County Auditor, Carol Stefanatos, talked with Mike Weller at Frances Slocum Bank. He's researching the removal of funds from his end. Commissioners asked Tom to send a cordial letter to Mr. Weller, requesting the Minnick Construction funds be returned to the account.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: He finally has both of the trucks ordered last year. The truck damaged 2/23 has been totaled by insurance, and the settlement will be about \$15,000.00. He reviewed last week's truck bids with Commissioners, and all met bid specifications. Larry suggests Commissioners buy two single axle trucks and one tandem axle truck from the bids supplied, thus replacing the wrecked truck while there are available quotes. He estimates this should save about \$25,000. between the insurance settlement and current quotes. This would of course be contingent upon Co. Council approval of funds. The Denney Motor Sales quote for single axle GMC is the lowest at \$47,663. each, while the Eriks Chevrolet, Kokomo quote of \$53,997. is lowest for a GMC tandem axle truck. Brian moved to buy 2 single axle and one tandem axle as per the above quotes, second by Darle, and passed. Larry recommends not accepting the lowest quote for equipment, for the trucks, from Northern Equipment, Plymouth, at \$29,397.00. His department spent 6 months getting the equipment installed properly. Deeds Equipment, Lawrence, is next low at \$29,840. each, for equipping single axle trucks, with W.A. Jones & Son, Columbia City the low quote of \$31,933. for equipping a tandem axle truck. Both of these companies have experience fitting the new design GMC trucks. Brian moved to accept the Deeds and Jones bids, since Northern had trouble fitting the last truck for the county, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners agreed Pat Walls could taper a side ditch she mows on the Frances Slocum Trail at the county line south of Somerset, subject to Larry's approval of the work. Brian said a property owner on CR 1175 N has asked about work on his road. Larry will look at it, but he hasn't developed his road surface work list for this year, yet. Larry had pictures of road damage caused by cement trucks belonging to a company by the name of Kuert. Larry will give them the option of repairing the damage or being assessed for his department to make repairs. Larry says a request from Verizon to bore under CR 100 E in the right-of-way looks okay. It will run from 589 N 100 E, for 1400 ft. to bring service to 692 N 100 E. Commissioners signed the request.

Liberty Township Poor Relief hearing: Township Trustee, Larry Manning, reports income guidelines approved in January of 2003 are the main contention. Although income/expense information supplied by petitioner, Jackie McPeak, was incomplete, she exceeds the maximum income standard of \$796. per month. She also pays \$35. per month for a storage shed, not considered a necessary expense. The last payment to REMC was in Oct. of 2002, and paid thru the Trustee. Manning says McPeak has made no attempt to talk to REMC about the account. Manning has denied McPeak's request for \$509.58 to pay the delinquent light bill. McPeak says the utility bill was in her daughter's name, and she had no idea it wasn't being paid, until her daughter moved recently and REMC notified her the power would be cut on 3/15. As part of the energy assistance program, the utility must supply power until March 15th. McPeak, who's waiting for disability approval, has downsized from a two bedroom home to a mobile home, and must store her excess furniture. She has contacted local churches and agencies asking for assistance, and last night sent a \$100. check to REMC. Her daughter is expecting money from an injury settlement, but McPeak can't guarantee when that will come or whether any of it will go to REMC. Brian moved to deny the request for relief, indicating his compassion for the situation, but saying guidelines must be maintained or they're of no use, second by Darle, and passed. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Hauptert

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor