

April 14, 2003

Wabash County Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 4/7 meeting were approved as written, moved by Brian Haupert, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours and a thank-you note from Brenda Ramseier for allowing a display of her students artwork in the courthouse for the month of March. Commissioners, as the financial agent, signed the approved grant of \$5,600. for the Court Appointed Special Advocate program (CASA). Now a part-time position, director, Mary Ellen Clark, is seeking additional grants to increase the position to full time, so she may expand services. Commissioners approved a request from Treasurer, Lu Ann Layman to submit a claim for \$420. to print C copies of tax statements. Commissioners also approved a suggestion by LuAnn that an inmate be used to clean floors in the courthouse. The inmate would require supervision, and Commissioners told Lu Ann to make arrangements. Commissioners told Twin Lakes Estates resident, Russell Cox, they will have the Co. Plan Commissioner take pictures of trash and roadway obstructions in the addition next week. Cox says vehicles, barrels and railroad ties obstruct travel on some roads. Commissioners reminded Cox that the county has little jurisdiction over the platted addition, as the developers never completed the addition to county specifications.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry presented a letter regarding Bridge # 28 at Laketon. It asks the In Dept. of Transportation (INDOT) to apply design expenses toward the county match for the project. Brian moved to sign the letter, asking the design fee of \$40,700. be applied to the county match, second by Darle, and passed. Larry says a retaining wall on CR 325 E between Durnbaugh and Baumbauer roads needs replaced. He's gotten two estimates, each one a different option. Costs vary considerably, with the more expensive estimate redirecting the creek's direction. Larry fears the cheaper fix may not hold up long term, and will study the options thoroughly. Repairs to the highway barn floor have uncovered much standing water under the floor, although it's not clear how the water gets in. They're installing a drain, and there's a good base now. Work will take another two weeks.

Commissioner Attorney, Tom Mattern: Tom noted in a letter from Frances Slocum Bank regarding release of Minnick Construction escrow funds, that the bank exonerates itself from any wrong-doing. They indicate the account wasn't set up properly. Tom reminded Commissioners that Minnick's have filed bankruptcy. Tom reviewed the Indiana code regarding rural fence disputes. A "spite or nuisance" fence looks to be a court issue not involving either Commissioners or township trustees. Les has been trying to reach Mark Guenin regarding settlement of Old Rd. 15 S right-of-way. Tom will try to reach Mark, as the pre-trial hearing is 5/16 in Logansport. If Mark gets settlements negotiated, the court case may be dismissed.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: Sheriff Striker introduced Rex Jones with WTH Engineering, who presented a contract to update the 911 system. The GIS system will provide mapping and pinpoint addressing for Wabash City, North Manchester and LaFontaine. The \$24,000. cost comes from grants thru the state wireless fund. Rural areas in the county have already been mapped. Brian moved to sign the contract with WTH, Darle second and passed. A fully executed copy will be returned to the county. Sheriff Striker advised of two meetings he has scheduled for 4/17, and encouraged Commissioners to attend. The 10:00 A. M. meeting regards the REMC tower and an 11:30 meeting will discuss jail medical costs. Les told Striker the State Board of Accounts would like a written opinion from Commissioner attorney Tom Mattern, if the county implements the court fees ordinances to pay for court security, since court fees are set by the state. A Jennings County judge implemented the fees without clearing the plan. Striker supports the fee, and urges the county to follow the necessary process to set it up. Brian thinks both judges should write letters supporting the fee and indicate their intent to levy the fine. Sheriff Striker is still waiting for a response from the Sheriff's Association regarding the legality of advertising on emergency vehicles.

Memorial Hall HVAC upgrade: Attorney Mattern indicates contracts look to be in order, but notes the agreement with the contractor, Quality Electric, is for the highest figure of \$109,000.00. If Commissioners aren't planning to do the entire project, they may want to change the amount. Larry Hoover explained the lower figures were to delete a floor or have the equipment purchased by the county. Upon learning there were sufficient funds in the construction loan to complete the judicial building, Brian moved to sign the contract for the entire job at \$109,000.00, second by Darle, and passed. Hoover reported in an unrelated matter that Quality Electric didn't have the contract for finish work around the HVAC system in the courthouse, as part of the judicial project. He says there was \$20,000. set aside for the drywall contractor to do finish work. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

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Lester D. Templin, Chairman

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Darle V. Dawes

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Brian K. Haupert

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor