

MAY 5, 2003

Wabash Co. Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 4/28 meeting were approved as written, moved by Brian Haupert, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket, the Payroll Check Register and the Accounts Payable Voucher Register. They reviewed the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours and the April Financial Report. Brian moved to sign the annual Congressional School Report for the period ending 4/30/03, second by Darle, and passed. The Auditor and Commissioner attorney certified the CAGIT and CEDIT rates at .01 and .50 respectively, for 7/1/03 thru 6/30/04. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, spoke with attorney Don Metz regarding a fence dispute. Both feel any resolution would come thru the courts. Tom said Realtor, Sue Dickos, contacted him about hooking into a county sewer in the Tanglewood Drive area. There's a parcel for sale, and a sewer connection would be helpful. Commissioners nor Larry Rice are aware of a county sewer in the area.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: The barn floor is finished, and they're putting things back in order. Larry said United Consulting Engineers and INDOT will inspect bridge # 208, carrying Old Rd 24 W over the railroad at 9:00 A.M. on May 15th. At Larry's request, Commissioners set 6/30/03 at 10:00 A.M. for hearings on closing three sections of county roadway. Slated for closing are portions of CR 950 N, CR 700 E and CR 1300 N. Larry will handle notification of affected property owners. Commissioners agreed that Lucille Lowe may place a gate on an unimproved section of county road adjacent to her property along Old Rd. 15 S. This should prevent trespassers from driving in her field. Commissioners need to get a 260 foot section of CR 200 E staked for roadway. The road was closed last year, except for the 260 ft. section left unimproved for field access. The surveyor didn't get it marked before he resigned. Larry says a VERIZON request to bury cable in the right-of-way (R/W) looks okay, so Commissioners signed approval. It will run in the north R/W of CR 800 N, for 345 feet beyond 4720 E 800 N.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: The Sheriff says State Police are investigating the inmate death over the weekend. There's video monitoring of the inmate, who died in her sleep, and two jail officers were on duty at the time. In a related matter, Commissioners agreed Sheriff Striker may fill a vacancy in his jail staff. His budget allows for 7 jail officers, and he has been working with 6 since he took office in January.

Vince Harrell, Co. Agent: Vince has a job description for a summer intern, set at 28 hour weeks for 9 weeks. Vince is retiring June 30th, and the intern will ease the work load burden. Attorney Mattern doesn't think a contract would eliminate the possibility of potential benefits. Brian moved for Vince to proceed with hiring a part-time, temporary employee, for a period of 9 weeks at about 28 hours a week, second by Darle, and passed. These parameters are in line with Council recommendations for the job. Vince has paper work for transferring funds to cover the position, ready for the next County Council meeting.

John Speidel, Jr. with Butler, Fairman & Seufert: They're putting together a contract for engineering services on the DNR project for CR 950 S. The contract then needs state approval. John presented an invoice for a state approved overhead factor for 2001 on the Carroll Street bridge replacement. The county owes 20% of the invoice for \$11,531.88, or \$2,306.38. Larry Rice reports he encumbered the balance in the account, because the final audit isn't complete, so funds are available.

Proposed Ordinance to increase court costs as a means to generate security funds: Judges Daniel Vanderpool and Michael Sposeep and Co. Clerk, Lori Draper, responded to this proposal. Their letter indicates the legislature has divided criminal offenses into two broad categories of misdemeanors and felonies. It is solely the prerogative of the legislature to set the amounts of costs and fines and to determine the disposition of them. Most current costs are set out in IC 33-19-1-1 et seq. The legislature has provided authority to counties to establish a per diem charge to persons held in the Co. Jail for more than 72 hours, to a maximum of \$30.00. Statute allows for the Co. Sheriff to collect the fee, and if not the Sheriff, the Co. Attorney. The Courts and Clerks role in collection would come after attempts by the Sheriff and Co. Attorney to collect, thru the filing of a civil suit for collection with the courts. The letter indicates confidence in the Commissioners ability to make the appropriate decision after weighing the pros and cons. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Haupert

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor