

SEPTEMBER 22, 2003

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 9/15 meeting were approved as written, moved by Darle Dawes, second by Brian Hauptert, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. They reviewed the Clerk's August Report and the Weights & Measures monthly report. County Clerk, Lori Draper, had lease and purchase comparisons for a copy machine. The 60 month lease/purchase option is about \$5,000. higher than a 5 year lease agreement. Some of the options on the machine won't be needed for about two years, so she will negotiate further. Marvia Wilcox from Chester Township discussed a drainage problem concerning a ditch near Servia. Commissioners will check the matter. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, shared a letter between attorneys regarding attorney fees in the Todd Wheatley suit, recently settled in the county's favor. Since the letter suggests the court might reward attorney fees to the successful parties, Commissioners asked Tom to respond to the letter, requesting recovery of attorney fees for the county, since the insurance deductible is \$10,000. Tom will respond prior to the 9/29 deadline. Tom has reviewed the inmate health care contract, and finds only one clause that may concern Commissioners. The contract would automatically renew on an annual basis unless either party indicates a desire to terminate the contract within 60 days of renewal. The contract allows for cost increases to a maximum of 5% per year. Sheriff Striker says he will be monitoring the program, and stay on top of renewal decisions. The 10/03 start date does allow for costs to remain the same thru 12/04. Tom noted the carrier assumes all liability responsibilities. Brian moved to sign the agreement so coverage may start in October, second by Darle, and passed. Darle did voice his dislike for automatic renewal contracts, but hopes the savings to the county over ride that concern. Mattern also reviewed the sample "false alarm" ordinance presented by Striker. Striker says he's only interested in addressing repeated false alarms, by setting a fine after two false alarms. Commissioners agreed Leroy and Tom should collaborate on an ordinance.

Co. Highway Dept: Phil Amones, assistant supervisor, says FEMA has agreed to pay 75% of repair costs for the storm damaged bridge on Old St. Rd. 15 S at Treaty Creek. Repairs won't be done until next spring, so the bridge will need a temporary fix. FEMA requires an engineering study and state approval to enter the water, before work begins. Another storm casualty yet to be repaired, is a concrete gutter on CR 1100 S, west of CR 600 W. The department is moving forward with purchase of a new base radio damaged in the 7/4 storms. Phil reports the 1993 Dodge 3/4 ton pick-up truck has over 143,000 miles on it and needs work. With the money saved from truck and equipment purchases earlier this year, there is enough to buy a flat bed truck to replace the pick-up. It would have more uses than a pick-up truck. Commissioners agreed to advertise for quotes for a flat bed, and set 10/20/03 at 11:00 A.M. as the bid deadline. Larry Rice, back to work after an illness, asked Commissioners to set a date for highway supply bids, which they set for 11/10/03 at 10:00 A.M. E & B Paving was awarded the bid for the next phase of Old Rd. 15 S. Their bid of \$3,505,768. means the county 20% share is \$701,153.78. John Speidel, Jr. with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, has submitted a credit request of \$192,898.99 towards the county's 20% share. These are costs incurred by the county to date for engineering and right-of-way acquisition. If accepted, the balance due will be \$508,254.70. Brian had a complaint that the railroad wasn't keeping the brush cut at the crossing on CR 1000 N. Larry will notify the railroad. Larry says a VERIZON request to bury cable along CR 1500 N, beginning at St. Rd. 15, then westerly to 5251 W 1500 N, should go to Kosciusko Co. for approval. He will talk with Verizon. Commissioners will pay for cleaning materials for the North Manchester covered bridge, in the amount of \$73.50. Fifty volunteers, including college students doing the labor, monitored by United Methodist Church members, worked hard to clean graffiti off the unpainted interior of the historical bridge. Brian Wagner, director of Parks & Recreation, spearheaded the project. Payment will come from the Covered Bridge account.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: Leroy says local law enforcement will be accepting expired prescription drugs for disposal this week, as part of the Eliminate Expired Drugs Environmentally Week. He asked Commissioner support of an additional appropriation request of \$67,400. for inmate medical and dental costs the remainder of 2003. This amount includes \$22,500. for 3 months on the new plan approved today by Commissioners. Commissioners agreed he should submit the request. He met with Community Corrections representatives last week, along with Darle. All D felonies and some C felonies would participate in this program, with occasional extenuating circumstances placing someone in jail. 63 of the 92 counties participate, with none opting out, after joining. The program will fund renovation of a facility, and pay the wages of necessary employees. It generally takes 5 months to get the program running. There are 115 in jail this morning. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Hauptert

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor