

October 14, 2003

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 10/6 meeting were approved as written, moved by Brian Hauptert, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours. Brian reports Quality Electric suggests a trial year of maintenance for the Courthouse/Judicial Center heating/cooling system, before locking into an agreement. After discussion, Commissioners decided not to establish a new policy for 4-wheel off road vehicles. They will adhere to the manufacturers' recommendation that they be used as off road vehicles. They learned from the Auditor that Governor, Joe Kernan, intends to ask the legislature to extend the deadline for property tax exemption applications from May 10th to December 1st this year only, due to reassessment delays. This causes some concern for financially strapped counties, as tax rates for taxes due in 2004 will be based on current assessed values. Once post May 10 exemptions are applied, assessed values will decrease, along with income collected. The Auditor supports extending the deadline for homestead exemptions, which deduct up to \$35,000. from the assessed value of the property one owns and lives in, and will advise the governor of her position. The state reimburses counties with the homestead credit. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, reports the government acquisition contract for vehicles looks okay, although there's a great deal of indemnification for both provider and receiver. It's been reviewed and approved by 500 attorneys. The next step is a Commissioner resolution supporting the program. Commissioners advised Habitat for Humanities representative, Phillip Magner, the county doesn't have a trash removal program, and rural property owners need to contract with a private company. Commissioners approved the Notice of Voting Places presented by Co. Clerk, Lori Draper. Les has checked polling places for compliance with new requirements for handicapped accessibility. The most common problem is gravel parking areas, although some entry ramps don't meet federal guidelines. Lori is working on alternate sites, or the possibility of combining polling places. She reports the "doc's pop" computer program for the courts is in the first phase of usage.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry is still negotiating with FEMA for 7/4 storm damage reimbursement, at this point about \$44,000.00. The waterway project on CR 800 N and CR 200 E is on hold until all parties are in agreement on the plans. He has received a petition from area property owners to pave up to 3,000 feet of CR 750 N to the Alger Cemetery. Brian moved to add the road to the list for improvements, second by Darle, and passed. Larry said they would likely get to it in 2005. Les asked Larry to check an area of CR 700 S that is broken up. John Speidel, Jr., with Butler, Fairman & Seufert (BF&S) learned the estimate BF&S submitted for engineering services to repair the retaining wall on Treaty Creek along Old Rd. 15 S isn't acceptable to FEMA, as there isn't a breakdown of costs, just a not to exceed figure of \$ 14,600. FEMA needs to know if the figure covers inspection. Larry reminded John he is waiting on a Dept. of Natural Resources permit so he may proceed with temporary repairs. John will get the permit dept. moving. Larry also asked John to get the pre-construction meeting for Phase III of Old Rd. 15 S set promptly.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: Leroy along with Dallas Duggan, Probation Chief, report a grant of \$15,000. has been approved for the Day Reporting program, and it's set to start Oct. 20th in the jail basement. Leroy says the judges and prosecutor support a Community Corrections program, and Mr. Mattern says the sample ordinance looks okay. Darle moved approval of Ordinance 2003-IV, which establishes a Community Corrections program in Wabash Co., second by Brian, and passed. Leroy says the central dispatch committee will meet today at noon in No. Manchester. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Hauptert

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor