

February 12, 2001

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order with Darle Dawes absent. Minutes of the 2/5 meeting were approved as written, moved by Brian Hauptert, second by Les, and passed. Commissioners reviewed the January Financial Report, the Jail/Memorial Hall custodian hours and the annual Ameritech report indicating they have no delinquent 911 subscribers. They learned the City of Wabash will be requesting a funding increase in 2002 for the county subsidy for ambulance services, along with an annual cost of living increase. Co. Treasurer, LuAnn Layman, as required by law, shared a list county warrants that have been outstanding for two years or longer. Learned from Paul Bergman, Emergency Management director, that his volunteers are totally supported by police and fire groups for their assistance at emergencies. They currently have one marked car to place at one end of an incident, and they would like a second marked car, so both sides could be covered. The Sheriff is agreeable to donating one of his trade-ins for this purpose. Commissioners want input from Darle before making a decision. Flo Dahlstrom and Vicki Williams, representing the Animal Control Board, told Commissioners the shelter can't keep adequate staff because wages are too low. The full time assistant just quit, precipitating the newspaper notice curtailing all animal pick-ups, except emergencies. Flo says about 50% of animal pick-ups are within the City of Wabash. They asked Commissioner support of an additional appropriation request to the Co. Council of \$5300. That would increase the full time wages by \$1.63/ hr. and part time by \$1.20/hr., along with covering benefit costs. Commissioners think something needs done to keep the shelter going, but aren't sure higher wages is the only solution.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry will attend a meeting tomorrow to see about getting state reimbursement for snow related work in December 2000. He says the Ameritech request to replace existing cable on Co. bridge # 96 on Hanging Rock Rd. looks okay, and Commissioners signed the request. Larry's going to check bridge # 208, the railroad over pass over old 24 W this morning. Railroad crews working there want to make sure their plans are okay. Commissioners agreed with Larry's recommendation to promote Jon Martin and Jeff Lawson to mechanics with the department, and bring Kyle Highley on staff today as a driver/operator and back-up mechanic.

Old Rd. 15 S: John Speidel, Jr., with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, (BF&S) told Commissioners they have separate cover letters to send to land owners who have donated right-of-way (R/W), and those who haven't. The letters offer compensation for the R/W, show actual market values and what the county is offering to pay, along with the Uniform Land Acquisition pamphlet. It states issuance of the letter starts the 25 day waiting period before condemnation procedures commence, if the R/W isn't granted. Design changes at the north end, terminate the project south of the intersection where the Michael Campbell and David Powell properties are located, thus eliminating them from the project.

Judicial building project: Steve Alexander of Prince/Alexander Architects, (P/A) met with both judges two weeks ago, and finalized plans for their courts with minor design changes like space for 15 jurors rather than 12. They also discussed security, and they want an x-ray machine and firearms detection system at the entry. This calls for additional electrical work and relocation of the inner door. He's meeting with the Co. Clerk today to finalize her plans. The cooling tower excavation is complete, and the footers should be poured today or tomorrow. The cooling tower will have reinforced concrete block walls rather than poured concrete as Terry recommended, since Minnick Construction won't relinquish the block work that's in his contract. Steve had change order # 1 for M & W Construction, an additional \$13,544. for cooling tower excavation, and Les signed acceptance. Steve says both Campbell Construction and M & W Construction have verbally agreed that M & W pour the concrete footers at the judicial building entrance, thus saving Campbell's from a trip here just for that. Commissioners would like written confirmation of that agreement. Steve says bid package M (finishes/painting has been awarded, and shouldn't be part of the 2/20 bid deadline packages as advertised. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, questioned the meaning of "substantial completion", which Steve uses often in the amended agreement to extend management services he presented for Commissioner approval. He didn't get a straight answer. Les asked about handicapped accessibility to Memorial Hall from the new building, and Steve said both the first and second floors are, but not the third. After P/A left the meeting, Brian said he had talked with the law firm, Barnes and Thornburg, and they advised the county to get out of the contract with P/A if at all possible, though not by citing the IN code section which prohibits the same company providing both architectural and management services on a project. That has been challenged in court, and could force the county into extensive litigation and expense. With no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned. Commissioners and Mr. Mattern will reconvene today at 3:30.

The group reconvened at 3:45, and after discussion, Brian moved to send Prince/Alexander a letter terminating the county's contract with P/A for their services on the Wabash Co. judicial building project, second by Les, and passed. Les and Brian signed the letter which will be faxed tomorrow morning and sent by certified mail. The notice gives P/A seven days to shut down and move out. With no further business, they adjourned.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Hauptert

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor