

April 9, 2001

Wabash County Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 4/2 meeting were approved as written, moved by Brian Hauptert, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed the Jail/Memorial Hall custodian hours. Based on a response from the 38 participants in the Deferred Compensation plan, Brian moved to stay with the state plan, since that was the choice of 30 of 38 employees, second by Darle, and passed. Toby Steffen with Butler, Fairman & Seufert Engineers (BF&S), reports steel for the deck is in place on the Carroll Street bridge, and August 15th is the targeted completion date. Pier 2 will have extra expenses, anticipated at about \$27,000., with the county 20% share at about \$5,500. A change order request will be forthcoming. Commissioners reviewed a letter from INDOT indicating that bridge # 208 on Old 24 W over the railroad, isn't eligible for federal bridge funds as the efficiency rating is 83.6. Federal regulations prohibit the use of bridge funds for any structure with a rating above 80. Emergency Management director, Paul Bergman, reports "The Paper" will include an insert on hazardous materials in their next issue. Commissioners agreed that Paul could seek funds to train HAZMAT personnel.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: The estimates to repair the damaged highway barn wall are for a 100 ft. area, rather than the entire side of about 200 feet. Larry will get new estimates from the 3 original bidders, to repair the entire side. J.L. Sparks, who was originally awarded the job, estimates an additional \$10,000., but Commissioners will hold on a decision until they hear from Faust Masonry and Kroft Construction. A culvert has been ordered to replace the culvert at CR 850 S and CR 50 E. After learning a current grant for funds to erect STOP signs at rural railroad crossings, provides funds for materials only, Brian moved to wait until next year's cycle, when funds are available for both labor and materials, second by Darle, and passed. After discussion of options, Brian moved to remove the center grassy areas in the Somerset road system and adjust the manholes, second by Darle, and passed. Highway crews will get started on the project.

LaFontaine Handy Andy project; LaFontaine water supervisor, Denny Jones, Town Board member Mike Brane and adjacent property owner Larry Manning, attended. Also County Surveyor, John Stephens, and project surveyor, Randy Miller, Marion. Handy Andy representatives are committed to pay \$15,350. for an 1100 ft. open drainage ditch. These plans don't allow for future growth or additional needs for drainage. LaFontaine would like a stormwater drain that would improve highway and town water runoff. 1100 ft. of 18 inch drain pipe could be installed for \$26,650., or 24 inch pipe for about \$3.00 more per foot. A proposed development in the area could provide a retention pond, making the 18 inch pipe large enough. They might also contribute to drain installation costs. Handy Andy's \$15,350. share could go toward a drain or a ditch, and the remaining \$11,300. would have to be raised. Stephens says funds aren't available in the general drain account, and a regulated drain fund needs time to build from assessments. Jones said, with town board approval, LaFontaine might pay the up front costs for a stormwater drain, and maintain a properly installed drain, if they could get reimbursed for part of the installation costs. There's about 1/2 acre of county roadway in the 1100 foot area, so Brian suggests the county and LaFontaine look into making this a joint project using CEDIT funds, and WEDCOR director, Bill Bradley, thinks it would be a good use of the funds, since the Handy Andy should be a boon to LaFontaine. Commissioners will talk with Co. Council members and the LaFontaine Town Board will meet on the matter. Handy Andy has a projected opening date of May 1st, and needs a prompt decision so they can proceed with construction.

Wabash North Industrial Park Speculation building: R & B Properties representatives, Russ Felderman and Bill Roebel, who built and financed the building, along with their attorney, Bill Swift, report the lender who holds the loan is threatening to foreclose the loan, and they're asking the county and city of Wabash to extend our three year commitment of \$50,000. per year, each, for another six months thru the end of 2001. We would each commit to an additional \$25,000. towards interest payments on the loan. Both the city and county's commitments end in June 2001. The bank has indicated they would hold off foreclosure if the agreement was extended. R & B has talked with mayor Copeland, who made no commitment. Another option would be to ask a coalition of local banks to take over the loan and pay off the current lender, although that avenue hasn't been investigated. A Spanish company is looking at the building, and would like to expand it and add a day care center, but there's no agreement, yet. Wabash is centrally located for the company's distributions, and in early 2002 they need a place to keep a \$14 million piece of equipment. R & B Properties is now willing to sell at their cost, with no profit. Bill Bradley says the new highway is a plus to draw new business, but the manufacturing industry has been in a 15 month decrease, which has hindered selling the "spec" building. Commissioners will talk with Co. Council and Mayor Copeland before making a decision. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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Lester D. Templin, Chairman

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Darle V. Dawes

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Brian K. Hauptert

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor