

July 30, 2001

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all members present. Minutes of the 7/23 meeting were approved as written, moved by Brian Hauptert, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Accounts Payable Voucher Register, and reviewed a letter from the Barnes and Thornburg law firm. They have been representing 55 counties that use Atek/Manatron computer systems, in a long term negotiation for the escrow deposit of the Atek/Manatron source code, to protect counties should the provider go out of business. Negotiations have stalled, and Barnes & Thornburg now recommends counties individually seek the protection. Upon the recommendation of the hospital board members, Brian moved to appoint Paul House of North Manchester, to the Wabash County Hospital Association Board for a four year term ending 6/30/05, second by Darle, and passed. Mr. House replaces Robert Hoover, who didn't seek reappointment. Commissioners signed deeds, transferring county property sold by bids on 7/2/01. County resident, Dean Eppley, requested county assistance for a drainage problem affecting the Treaty Elevator owned by Gar Mar, Inc. Pleasant Home Farms, doing the excavation work, found what appears to be an unconnected drain that was installed during bridge work in 1978. Eppley feels the intent was to attach it to an existing elevator drain. Since the drain is privately owned, not regulated and there are numerous assumptions about possible construction errors more than 20 years ago, Commissioners declined to fix the drain at county expense, and set a precedent. Commissioners want more information, and a review of the contract, before they consider a request from United Acquisitions Services to install a communications tower on Co. Highway property. Lana Bousman, with the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP), and Gladys Airgood, Trustee of the Servia Water Association, requested Commissioner support of a planning grant application thru the Department of Commerce, to get the Servia water system up to code. The town applied for, and received, \$32,000. for construction, thru the Build Indiana Fund. Since Servia is unincorporated, Bousman asked the county to sponsor the project and serve as the funds administrator. Brian moved to support the grant application, and for the county to administer the funds, second by Darle, and passed. Ms. Bousman, a certified grant preparer, will complete the application at no charge.

Richvalley Walnut Street partial vacation request: Since adjacent property owner Dorothea Biehl contends this request would land lock her back lot, should she ever want to sell it as a separate parcel, Commissioners will visit the site on August 13th, before rendering a decision on the Charles and Melissa Hunt vacation petition. Darle moved to table the decision until after the site visit, second by Brian, and passed.

Wabash County Highway Dept: Larry Rice reports since the speed limit is 30 mph between Ijamsville and Laketon on CR 200 W, the vote last week to lower the speed limit to 45mph, isn't needed. He reports 27 miles of chip and seal work are completed. It took several days to repair the vandalized equipment, and one employee received second degree burns in the process. Larry reported both the vandalism and related injury to the Sheriff. Larry compared the truck bids accepted last week. He said the Ford Sterling truck bid and the Clark Equipment quote didn't meet specifications, although Clark listed what "specs" their equipment can't meet. The lowest purchase bid from Denney Motor Sales, isn't the lowest price when the trade-in amount is figured. Brian moved to purchase two GMC single axle trucks from Erik's Chevrolet of Kokomo, equipment for one truck from Deeds Equipment and equipment for the other truck from W. A. Jones & Son, second by Darle, and passed. Since there's enough funds in his budget, Commissioners approved Larry hiring a temporary part-time employee to do mowing, thus freeing a full time worker for other duties.

Judicial building: Commissioners reviewed a 23 point agenda presented by Terry Burnworth of Pyramid Architects & Engineers. They approved requesting quotes for: (1) a phone system; (2) judges benches; (3) an automated dumbwaiter to be paid for by Clerk's incentive funds; (4) security system to be paid for by court user fees; (5) courtroom furniture; (6) office furniture for the rest of the building; (7) window coverings; (8) exterior column coverings. Terry advised Pyramid should be ready to recommend contracts for floorcoverings and landscaping by August 6th. Pyramid reports the bond insurance for Minnick Construction has paid prior mason wages. Terry noted M & W Construction has not yet produced a performance bond, and a local attorney has advised Pyramid that all further negotiations go thru the attorney. Terry shared a hand-out indicating the need for 10 additional electrical outlets, along with a revised door plan for the building, eliminating 10 doors and changing the number of masonite and wood doors used. Pyramid has petitioned the state (on behalf of the county) for a variance on the fire code door requirements for public buildings, but the hearing will delay installation of some doors. The group reviewed quotes for the exterior overhang detail, one for \$12,800. and the other for \$49,000. A revised schedule has construction completed by 10/12/01 with the project completed 11/21/01. Upon the recommendation of Pyramid, Brian moved to approve a contract with Gaunt & Son Asphalt (\$19,320.) for parking lot paving, and one with Wolffs Insulation Service (\$6,504.90) for insulation, second by Darle, and passed. Terry offered to credit the county for a charge to do a cost estimate to renovate the Memorial Hall to house the Probation department, but Les and Brian both feel the claim is valid, and should be paid. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Hauptert

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor