

December 21, 1998

Chairman, Lester Templin, called the Commissioners meeting to order in the courthouse at 9:00 a.m. with all members attending. Minutes of the 12/14 meeting were approved with the correction of Baumbauer Rd. to Durnbaugh Rd. in the discussion with Brian Ridgeway, moved by Brian, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Accounts Payable Voucher Register. They reviewed the Clerk's Monthly Report and the Jail/Memorial Hall custodian hours. They reviewed the notice from the City of Wabash to Walter and Martha Tyler, to raze an unsafe building at 75 S. East Street, and have no objections to the petition for nomination of the St. Patricks Church in Lagro to the National Register of Historic Buildings. Commissioners noted the cost of trash collection from the Sheriff's department by Wabash Valley Refuse Company will increase by 6%, effective 1/99. Commissioners approved and signed Sheriff Roberts' bond for his second term. They also noted a letter from Coregis Insurance indicating our policy doesn't cover the claims made in the John Barshney Tort Notice.

Tina Edwards, Probation Chief, presented the 1999 Emergency Shelter Placement Agreement with White's Residential Services. Five beds at \$85.50 per bed, would be reserved daily at the shelter care facility, up from \$82.40 per bed in 1998. Only 11 times in 1998 were all of the beds not used daily, but Tina doesn't think more beds are warranted, because this is a non-secure facility. Costs to the county for reserved beds in 1997 were \$150,380. and \$156,037.50 in 1998, a better bargain than many places, and Tina supports continuing the contract. Darle moved approval of the 1999 contract for detention for juvenile offenders, second by Brian, and passed.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry spoke with the O'Brien family on CR 1300 N, and they understand their driveway would have to be built up, at their expense, once the road is raised to eliminate standing water problems. They do have financial concerns, but water closing their road is a greater threat due to a family members' health needs. Brian moved approval to request an additional appropriation of \$43,000. from Local Road and Street funds for the project, second by Darle, and passed. County crews will furnish and haul the materials, and the cost includes 3 inches of 5D asphalt base done by Gaunt & Son. Guardrail installation would be an extra expense. Larry suggests 4 STOP signs at the complicated intersection of CR 450 W and CR 1200 S might eliminate some safety concerns. Currently, there are 2 STOP signs and 1 Yield sign. The Yield sign will be replaced by a STOP sign in the project to eliminate all Yield signs on county roads. Darle moved to place a STOP sign for eastbound traffic exiting access road 450 W to CR 1200 S, second by Brian, and passed. Since no contract has been signed for replacing the existing structure on CR 600 E, south of the intersection with CR 975 S, funds cannot be encumbered from the 1998 appropriation. There has been confusion over what all was included in the 3 quotes Larry received earlier in the year. Larry had quotes from two companies in Ft. Wayne for a new distributor. Southeastern Equipment's quote of \$86,200. less trade, for a net cost of \$63,200. for an Etnyre brand, and the MacDonald Machinery Co. quote of \$86,260., less trade, for a net cost of \$71,260 for a Roscoe model. Both quotes include mounting on a 1999 truck chassis. Larry knows the Southeastern model meets all specifications and the MacDonald model doesn't. Brian moved to take the matter under advisement until later today, so Larry could compare the quotes, second by Darle, and passed. After review, Larry feels the Southeastern bid is lower, it meets the specifications, and he likes the gravity drainage method, if the pump malfunctions. Brian moved acceptance of the Southeastern quote of \$63,200. after trade, second by Darle, and passed.

Tom Mattern, Commissioner Attorney: Reports the New Path Communications agreement to merge into Galaxy American Communications LLC looks acceptable, and he suggests Commissioners sign. With no objections, Les signed approval to merge. Regarding the AFLAC/Flex One agreement which amends definitions of certain terms, and policy change schedules to fit Internal Revenue Services needs, Tom says he doesn't qualify as a tax expert, but suggests for the benefit of employees who choose to take advantage of the options that Commissioners sign the amendment. Chairman Templin signed. When reconvening after the Drainage Board meeting, Commissioners had 12/21 mail from AFLAC, asking anyone who had signed the AFLAC amendment to rescind approval, as plan amendments are not legally required at this time as a result of the delay in the effective date of the new rules. Brian moved to rescind the amendment approval, second by Darle, and passed. Les signed the Recission of Amendment, and both documents will go with the AFLAC contract on file in the Auditor's office. Tom noted receipt of a summons filed by Glen Barrus, and will pass the information on to the insurance companies. He will file an appearance on behalf of the county to keep the process timely, but recommends Commissioners use other legal representation, due to possible conflict in his position of Commissioner attorney.

Senator Harold "Potch" Wheeler and Richard Ford updated Commissioners on the museum relocation progress. Ford will get a Build Indiana Fund grant application completed and submitted before the end of this year. Wheeler suggests preparing an information package for members of the Senate budget committee, and indicated he supports the project. Ford also plans to do a press release after the first of the year, sharing an interest in the project shown by Crystal Gail and her husband Bill Gatzimos.

Paul Bergman, Emergency Management director, would like support by Commissioners to ask for an additional appropriation to purchase 5 portable communication radios. The communication radios in vehicles aren't much help if volunteers are in the field during a disaster emergency. Paul's communications budget for 1999 is \$400. and he'd like to ask for about \$5,000. Brian moved support of requesting \$5,000. for purchasing up to 5 portable radio's and necessary equipment, second by Darle, and passed. Paul will check into the new laws about selling surplus items, as he would like to sell the Emergency Management bus. It was bought to provide a warm rest area for volunteers, but is almost never used, and the communication equipment in it could be better used elsewhere. Selling it in the annual surplus auction may be the only option.

MidState Contractors representative, Jerry Hooper, advised his crews won't be back to work on the Memorial Hall roof until after the first of the year. He told Commissioners to contact the office in Ohio if any of the shingles come loose because they haven't sealed due to cooler temperatures. Mr. Hooper also asked how soon the lights could be removed from atop the courthouse, so his crews could start work there. Commissioners will talk to Quality Electric about removing them promptly after the first of the year. Hooper also plans to talk with Mary Ellen Rudisel of Searce Rudisel Architects about the condition of shingles on the courthouse roof. Replacing them was an alternative proposal in the bidding, and the Commissioners weren't planning to replace them now. With no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be January 4, 1999.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle Dawes

Brian Hauptert

Attest:

Carol Stefanatos, Auditor