

March 23, 1998

Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order in the courthouse at 9:00 a.m. with all members present. Minutes of the 3/16 meeting were approved as written, motioned by Darle, second by Brian and passed. Noted a letter from Beauchamp & McSpadden Ins. Co. indicating they will not present a health insurance quote, due to insufficient time. Will look in to a complaint from a Servia property owner about a neglected property. Brian will talk with Scarce, Rudisel & Assoc. to set a time for the Wage Determination meeting for courthouse roof repairs. Re-appointed George Smith and Phyllis Butler to the Board of Review for 1998, motioned by Brian, second by Darle and passed. Reviewed the Clerk's Monthly Report and the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. Signed an Additional Appropriation Request for the courthouse study in the amount of \$9,000.

Larry Rice, Highway Dept.: Gene Custer, CR 1000N, was not happy with decisions for road cut work. Darle looked, and is not sure plans will improve conditions. He'll talk with Mr. Custer. Larry will shoot a site at CR 200 N & CR 600 W (Kirtlan). Last week after rain Larry didn't find standing water. Les noted Clark's Grocery in LaFontaine has water problems. Larry says he's aware and will look, but there aren't drain pipes under the driveway as there should be. Larry attended the Pre-Construction hearing on Phase I of Old St. Rd. 15 last week, and E. & B. from Huntington will do the construction, set to begin June 1st. Larry Booth from E. & B. will look at CR 175 E, but he and Mike Hileman suggest using a machine to break up the concrete, then leave it as a base for a new surface. The Highway barn roof is leaking in two places, and should be repaired soon. Larry & Darle are conferring with the Health Dept. for a new sign. Commissioners approved 3 Additional Appropriation requests, motioned by Brian, second by Darle and passed. (1) Old St. Rd. 15 Phase II & III, engineering, \$15,000. (2) Bridge # 32, Liberty Twp. \$90,000. (3) Bridge # 51, Liberty Twp. \$60,000. Several wash-outs from rain last week, particularly bad on Old 24 west of Lagro along railroad. Jim Crispin asked railroad workers to fix it temporarily which they did, and Larry will contact them about a permanent fix.

Tom Mattern, Co. Attorney: Had completed Ordinance #94-9 Amendment for Commissioner approval. It directs all traffic traveling north on CR 275 W to STOP at the intersection with CR 1150 N. Commissioners signed the ordinance. Tom will prepare a one year lease (no fees involved) for the tillable ground on Co. Farm property with the Soil & Water Conservation District. It will include a clause for restitution for crop loss if the lease must be broken. Tom advised, after talking with Co. Treasurer Ann Gillespie, to sign the Partial Judgement Release for delinquent personal property taxes on the Widmeyer property now belonging to the city of Wabash. Commissioners signed. Tom noted the Treasurer has been named in a foreclosure suit on the KFC building. No taxes are currently delinquent.

Ann Gillespie, Treasurer: Asked approval to have tax statements processed in Ft. Wayne again this year. Last year she saved \$800.+ as they can get postage down to 23½ ¢ each. Brian motioned approval, second by Darle and passed. Ann also advised Commissioners to hold off on resumption of software payments to Manatron for the ditch reconstruction program until the May tax collections are completed, and the program corrections have been tested. Commissioners agreed since the company was lax in correcting the problems.

BENICOMP Insurance, Neil Ropp & Allen Miracle: Presented rate options of employee health insurance coverage thru 4/1/99. They noted changes in the law, and the number of serious illnesses this year. Commissioners will make a decision 3/30.

Commissioners then adjourned to an executive session to discuss two personnel matters. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Lester D. Templin, Chairman


Darle Dawes


Brian Haupt

ATTEST: 
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor