

March 2, 1998

Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order in the courthouse at 9:00 a.m. with all members present. Minutes of the 2/23 meeting were approved as written, motioned by Darle, second by Brian and passed. Reviewed the Clerk's Monthly Report and the Jail/Memorial Hall custodian hours. Reviewed the quote from Moake Park Group to do a building study. Brian will contact committee members with information and get their vote. Reviewed and signed the Accounts Payable Voucher Register. At the request of Bob Watson, Emergency Management, Commissioners signed a proclamation designating the week of March 8 thru 14, 1998 "Severe Weather Awareness Week". Brian motioned to sign the proclamation, second by Darle and passed.

Larry Rice, Highway dept.: The creek along CR 700 S between CR 390 E and America Road needs cleaned. It's causing the bank to slide into the creek. Larry looked at the ditch on CR 400 W at CR 500 N, and he'll do another siting. It's okay for the property owner to go ahead with his project, then we'll see how things are. Larry has a tentative list of roads to chip and seal this year, and wants the Commissioners to look them over. They need to decide about widening some first, since paving could increase their traffic and cause a safety issue. Regarding the petition to pave CR 900 N at CR 400 W, Larry has heard from the property owner who lives in Michigan. He doesn't want to relinquish 3 ft. of his ground for the project. The plan was to widen the road to 40 ft. and then chip and seal. Leaving it at it's current 16 feet would not help the berm conditions on his side of the road. Darle indicated clearing his fence row would make up for the ground he would lose, and feels bad that one abstention could foil the project. Larry noted a pre-construction conference on CR 1000S (Phase I of Old St.Rd. 15) is scheduled at INDOT Fort Wayne, March 17th at 10:00 a.m., and Commissioners should attend. He noted speed limit signs keep disappearing from CR 950 S west of St. Rd. 13, and he has notified the Sheriff. He also says his crews have levelled and laid stone on River Road at Roann near the bridge, but people with off-road vehicles keep tearing it up. A Metro bus driver has complained about ruts. Sheriff's department will look into it. Larry says a request from SPRINT to lay cable to a new home on CR 500 N approximately 2,000 ft. west of St. Rd. 15 looks okay, so Commissioners signed it. Noted work on Odgen Road is set to begin April 6th, but plans aren't complete yet, and he hasn't been able to reach Mr. Ulrey, so they may have to postpone. A neighbor feels the changes will cause new problems if people travel faster.

Whites Shelter Care Agreement: Tina Edwards, Probation, presented an agreement for 1998. The county would rent 5 beds daily for housing of juvenile offenders. The cost is \$82.40 a day per bed, up 3% from 1997. Tina reports there was a 3 month period over the summer, when her need was decreased, but from September on, she has needed additional beds nightly. She recommends we continue the program. Commissioners signed the new agreement for 1998.

Tim Roberts, Sheriff: 70 in jail this morning. He's still working on the buried fuel tanks. Tim noted if removal of the trucks parked on Old St. Rd. 15 extended beyond St. Rd. 218 south of LaFontaine (which has been closed) is to be enforced by him, Commissioners will need to post no parking signs, before he can take any action. The parked trucks prevent access to farm ground. Darle motioned to place no parking/tow away signs on the abandoned road, second by Brian, and passed. This will give the Sheriff support if they need to be towed at the owners expense.

Business owners in Laketon would like the county to chip and seal the block where they're located, to the right-of-way, due to pothole problems. They will take care of the remainder. Commissioners will look into it, and talk with the Plan Commissioner.

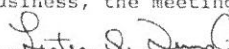
Allstar Communications Phone Maintenance: Darle motioned to select Basic Coverage for one year at \$1,872., second by Brian and passed. This is up 20% from last year due to inflation, number of service calls, and age of equipment. Basic coverage is Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays. Effective dates: 1/21/98 to 1/21/99.

Animal Shelter Vehicles: Both are driven to and from work by employees and should be taxed as fringe benefits. Darle motioned to tax the employees retroactively to 1/1/98 for usage, at the IRS rate, second by Brian, and passed. The Auditor is waiting for additional information from the IRS, and should continue to pursue the matter.

Jury duty regarding county employees: Item #311 of the Personnel Manual effective 7/1/96, indicates county employees must return any money received by the court for jury duty except mileage. Employees will receive one reminder fees are due, and then the amount will be deducted from their next pay.


Bob Luce, Butler Fairman & Seufert: Commissioners signed contracts approved by IN Dept. of Transportation concerning inspection of county bridges by Butler Fairman & Seufert. There are 150 bridges at \$240. each, and the county pays 20% or about \$7,200. The agreements are between (1) INDOT and Wabash County and (2) Butler, Fairman & Wabash County. They also signed an agreement with Butler, Fairman & Seufert for additional Geotechnical investigations for Phases II and III of the Old St. Rd. 15 project. The county will pay 20% of the \$6,000. fee. Bob noted the company who did the aerial photos of the County Farm in 1989 would sell us additional information for \$765.00. No decision was made. Commissioners signed an agreement with INDOT accepting speed limitations of 20 mph across the new Carroll Street bridge. The City of Wabash has passed an ordinance setting the speed limit at 20 mph. Currently it's 30 mph.

Soil & Water Conservation District and Consolidated Farm Service Agency represented by Joe Updike and Dale Coffing, respectively, asked the Commissioners to consider a building on the County Farm property to house them, the County Extension and any other entities the county would like to place there. Their lease expires the end of 1998 and they must move. The federal government covers all expenses of leasing except phone service, including lawncare and custodial work. Currently they pay \$10.50 per square ft. for approximately 2900 sq. ft. or about \$26,000. a year. They will be advertising soon for new facilities. Brian noted the county could put up a pole building, but the county should wait until their building study is completed. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Lester Templin, Chairman


Darle Dawes


Brian Hauptert

ATTEST 
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor