Vice Chairman, Darle Dawes, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner Conference room in the courthouse with Les Templin absent. Approval of the 11/16 minutes was deferred until Les returns. Commissioners reviewed the Jail/Memorial Hall custodian hours, a notice from Indiana Insurance Co. indicating our Crime and Boiler policies will exclude coverage for computer related or electronic problems associated with potential year 2000 problems. Asked the Auditor to respond to a Census participation request letter, noting all our addresses are house number/street name style, so we shouldn't have others to check. Noted Manchester Recycling delivered a dumpster last Friday, and it may need padlocked. Told the Auditor to contact the Joe Cochran Insurance Agency, letting him know they will contact him if they're looking to change health carriers. Heard from the Co. Health Dept. an appointment is needed to replace Dr. Pamela Higgins on the Board of Health, and recommended Wabash City Schools Superintendent, Robert Taylor, as a replacement. Plan Commissioner, Chad Dilling, says he will have two re-appointments due for "99", also. Commissioners try to make their annual appointments as a group, after confirmation the individuals are interested. Paul Bergman, Emergency Management director, told Commissioners he was advised last week-end to expect a 200% increase in hazardous materials being hauled thru the county by rail next year. The east-west route of Norfolk/Southern could carry as many as 20,000 cars thru Wabash County.

Urbana alley vacation hearing: Attorney, Stephen Downs, represented the Jeff Whitmer's, the petitioners, and Joseph Tysinger, adjacent property owner attended with concerns. The platted alleys run along the north and west sides of lots 15 & 16 in the Original Plat of Urbana. Whitmer's own lot 16 and the north part of lot 15 along with land west of the lots. Tysinger owns north of lot 16, and has a garage near the alley. Whitmer's want the vacated area added to their property, and Tysinger is concerned about access to his garage for maintenance. Commissioner Dawes raised a concern about a possible future need for utility easements, indicating alleys are perfect for that. Downs and Whitmer's said they would prepare a written agreement allowing Tysinger access to his garage for maintenance and make an easement for potential utility needs. Downs assured Commissioner Attorney Mattern, the proper notification procedures had been followed. Downs said the neighbors to the south, had no objections. Brian moved to take the matter under advisement, and set 12/7 at 1:00 p.m. for making a decision on the matter, second by Darle, and passed.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry and John Stephens are putting together repair cost figures for CR 1300 N. Funds will need appropriated from Local Road and Street accounts in 1999. Larry is working with the Assoc. of Indiana Counties and will contact people at the Highway Extension and Research Project for Indiana Counties and Cities (HERPICC), to learn why funding for highway general has experienced shortfalls over the last 3 years. Other counties have been similarly affected. He had a ballpark estimate from Southeastern for a new distributor (truck and tank) of \$85,000. The old distributor is a 1975 model, and he could get a better trade-in now. Larry also would rather replace the distributor than get a single axle truck costing about the same. He could better deal with a truck down than a distributor. Commissioners will make a decision before the end of the year. Larry says preparations on CR's $400~\mathrm{N}$, $100~\mathrm{W}$, $600~\mathrm{E}$ and $675~\mathrm{W}$ are almost completed for double chip and seal work next summer. New bridges on Elliott Rd. and CR 900S both have a base coat of asphalt. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Darle Dawes

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Brian Haupert

ATTEST:

Carol Stefanatos, Auditor