

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order in the courthouse at 9:00 a.m., with all members attending. Minutes of the 12/7 meeting were approved after the wording " and added to adjacent property" was eliminated from the Urbana alley vacation notes, moved by Brian, second by Les, and passed. Darle voted nay to approval of the minutes, stating he felt Mr. Tysinger was taken advantage of in the vacation ordinance process. In regards to Ordinance 98-7, which vacates the alleys adjacent to lot 16 and part of lot 15 in the Original Plat of Urbana, Brian moved to approve vacating the alley's, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners approved the vacation last week, but no vote was taken. There was discussion about how a vacated area is divided, and Darle had concerns about Ordinance 97-7 that vacated an alley in Fred Maurer's Addition of Urbana for the fire department. Plan Commission director, Chad Dilling, read IC: 36-7-3-12 concerning vacation of a public way, and Commissioner Attorney, Tom Mattern, said the normal procedure is to divide the vacated ground between adjacent property owners. One party could deed their share to the other party if they wished. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim and Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. They reviewed the Clerk's Monthly report, the Jail/Memorial Hall custodian hours and the BENICOMP Insurance monthly report. Asked Tom Mattern to review an AFLAC/Flex One cafeteria plan amendment and a New Path Communications Cable Co. assignment agreement before they signed. Noted TRIAX Cablevision, that serves North Manchester, has expanded their channel offerings, effective 11/23/98. Discussed an agreement submitted by Bernardin Lochmueller and Associates, Inc. for a feasibility study of what's needed at CR 450 W and CR 1200 S. The fee would not exceed \$10,000. unless authorized by Commissioners. Commissioners feel this is overkill for the project, so Brian moved to forego signing the contract, and ask Bernardin Lochmueller for a final billing, second by Darle and passed. Larry will get some project ideas on paper for next week. Paul Zilz of Lupke & Rice Associates, asked Commissioners to allow him to prepare estimates for Property & Casualty insurance coverage for the county. He recommends the county have their buildings and personal property appraised before he does estimates, and suggested Universal Valuation Consultants could do the appraisals. Commissioners agreed to talk with Dan Clark of Universal, and will review Zilz's presentation.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Crews are berming and ditching again. Larry has sold \$1,300. worth of scrap material since June, compared to earning \$202. at the June Surplus sale. Changes in the law allow this. Larry had a total project estimate of \$42,521. for raising the road on CR 1300 N. Gaunt & Son would have \$15,500 in labor & equipment, plus \$13,105.40 for a 3 inch asphalt base. The county's cost for materials would be around \$13,950. Highway crews would do some of the hauling, and could save about \$2,400. from the above estimate by hauling the asphalt. Brian, thinking the property has changed ownership recently, wants to make sure the owner realizes they must raise their driveway at their own expense, before the county proceeds. Larry will talk with them. Funds would come from Local Road and Street as a project. Darle moved approval to hire Jerry McKee as a highway department employee, second by Brian, and passed. He has worked for the county in the past.

Brian Ridgeway had two concerns. One being overhanging branches on CR 300 E between CR 250 S and Baumbauer Road. Some have broken loose and caused damage. Larry will take care of them if they are within the road right-of-way. Ridgeway asked about plans to chip and seal Baumbauer Rd. The configuration of the road may require some engineering help and there are 15 drainage structures that must be dealt with. It may be to large a project for county crews. Larry will ask Phend and Brown and Gaunt & Son to look at it, as they have some engineering expertise.

Tom Mattern, Commissioner Attorney, had a contract with Life-Med for services during 1999. The county would pay them \$77,500., the same as in 1998, and payments will be made on a monthly basis, as stated in the contract. Brian moved acceptance of the contract, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners signed, and Tom will get Life-Med signatures. Tom reports there has been a motion for a summary judgement in the Spradlin lawsuit involving an accident at CR 200 W at St. Rd. 16. The judge denied the request, so the case is proceeding. Tom also said he has notified our insurance carrier of a TORT notice filed by Stephen Singleton, naming the county as a defendant. The county will respond with a denial within the required 90 days.

Paul Bergman, Emergency Management director, asked for, and received approval to do some painting and ceiling tile repair to his office in Jan. and Feb. of 1999.

Beth Miller, director of the Local Coordinating Council n/k/a WASA (Working Against Substance Abuse), presented her group's funding request packet for 1999. Certain requirements must be met for grant consideration, including attendance at 3 or more of their meetings each year, completion of the application as required (penalized 20% for each incomplete part) and fund approval is for materials only, not man hours. Brian moved support of requesting approval of the grant funds by the Co. Council in January, second by Darle, and passed.

Sandi Beeks, E-911 coordinator, reports GTE is the only vendor to provide estimates for updating the E-911 system for up to 20 digit numbers. Commissioners told Sandi to get GTE in with a contract. Brian moved approval to use E-911 funds to purchase a \$207. replacement battery for the back-up system for the City of Wabash, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners told Sandi they haven't been approached by North Manchester to pay moving expenses for their E-911 equipment.

Wabash Co. Historical Museum: Gladys Harvey, Jean Gilbert, Dean Eppley, Mayor McCallen and Richard Ford updated Commissioners on their progress with plans to move the museum to new, larger facilities. Scarce & Rudisel Associates of Warsaw, along with Schmidt Associates of Indianapolis have completed a study and drawings of potential restoration of the old Sears building in downtown Wabash. The group will apply for Build Indiana funds, and hope to receive contributions, along with some continued financial support from the county. The estimated renovation cost is \$5.3 million, but could be done in phases. The ultimate goal would be to place the museum under the control of the Wabash Historical Society. The group agrees that an inventory of the museum needs completed before anything is moved. Former Wabash resident, Crystal Gail, has shown interest in the project, and might open one of her gift shops in the new facility. Les notes there has been concern that artifacts donated to the museum should stay with the museum, and items belonging to the county should stay under county ownership. The group will hold a public meeting in the Superior Courtroom of the courthouse on Jan. 6, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. Jean Gilbert, president of the Wabash Co. Historical Society, suggested the museum might be opened that evening, so people could see how limited their space is. State Senator Harold Wheeler will meet with Richard Ford next Monday to go over the plans, and has agreed to help in the effort to secure grant monies. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle Dawes

Brian Haupert

ATTEST: _____