

January 5, 1999

Wabash County Commissioners met in the Courthouse at 9:00 a.m. with all members present. Auditor, Carol Stefanatos, conducted the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 1999. Les moved to appoint Brian Haupert as Chairman, second by Darle, and passed. Brian moved to re-appoint Darle Dawes as Vice Chairman for 1999, second by Les, and passed. Brian conducted the remainder of the meeting, including the approval of the 12/21/98 minutes as written, moved by Les, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim and Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. They reviewed the Monthly Financial Report, the Treasurer's Monthly Report and the Jail/ Memorial Hall custodian hours. Les moved approval of bonds for Donna Friedersdorf, Recorder, and Brenda Conner, Noble Twp. Assessor, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners will pay the \$952.60 bill from Bernardin, Lochmueller & Associates for their feasibility study on the CR 450 W/CR 1200 S project. Brian will ask Charley Alvey to forward their completed plans to date. Noted that the county is not listed as a defendant in the complaint filed by the Barshney's. Les moved approval to re-appoint Lowell Rosen to the Plan Commission Board and Mark Milam to the Appeals Board, second by Darle, and passed. Both terms will run thru 2002. Commissioners noted a request to the IN Dept. of Environmental Management for a sewer/wastewater/industrial permit for Eldorado Subdivision in Wabash. Commissioners signed an additional appropriation request from CEDIT funds for the Small Business Development Center. Approved at their 10/5/98 meeting it is for \$2,500. Les moved to ask for an additional appropriation of \$70,000. for the Memorial Hall roof project, second by Darle, and passed. \$16,000. was encumbered from the 1998 funds in Memorial Hall account # 361, and \$25,000. was budgeted in #361 for 1999. The contract for repairs is \$107,030. An additional \$70,000. would leave a small balance in the account for the remainder of 1999.

Paul Bergman, Emergency Management director, had a Declaration of Disaster regarding the snow emergency, which meets the requirements of a 1989 County Ordinance and state statutes. The Commissioners signed it. Paul also had an estimate of \$3,000. to remove and replace damaged tile in the jail basement. Commissioners asked him to get additional estimates, and they will check with Sheriff Roberts about available funds for the job. Paul doesn't have the needed funds. Paul will soon have additional information on a regional seminar that will be held in Wabash on April 27th between 9:00 and 4:00 p.m. It will be for emergency personnel and department heads. Paul must file quarterly reports with the state, and it requires county executive signatures. Commissioners reviewed and signed the report. Paul will look into options for a new four wheel drive vehicle for his department and report back to Commissioners. He'd like to get rid of the bus and the 1983 Dodge Ram 4x4 they use now, but he doesn't have funds for the lease or purchase of a new vehicle.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Depart.: Roads are from 50% to 70% open, with drifting on north/south roads the biggest problem. Several trucks have been stuck, and several tow chains have broken in an effort to pull them out. There's a field check on the St. Rd. 13 project at 10:00 this morning near Oak Hill school. Larry won't attend.

Ann Gillespie, Treasurer, advised Commissioners the Reconstruction Ditch program provided by Manatron didn't work correctly, her totals weren't right. Manatron says it's fixed now, but Ann won't know until after May taxes, so she recommends continuing to withhold payment on the software program. Darle moved to continue withholding payment to Manatron for the Reconstruction Ditch program until it's proven to be fixed correctly, second by Les, and passed. The county will no longer agree to pay retroactive to 7/1/98 as per Commissioner minutes of 8/10/98, since the program didn't work correctly in November. Ann also presented information on paying taxes by credit card. There would be no cost to the county or need to purchase anything. There would be a 2% surcharge to the user, who would pay by phone thru a clearinghouse. The county would be notified about payments after a 24 hour waiting period. The change could be implemented in 2000.

Vince Harrell, County Agent, needed signatures on the agreement between Wabash Co. and Purdue University for partial payment of wages for Vince and Nancy Radabaugh. The county will make biannual payments to Purdue, who will in turn pay Vince and Nancy. This payment change was approved by the Council at "99" budget time. Brian signed the agreement.

Museum project: Les agreed to continue coordinating that effort with Richard Ford, and will contact him about re-scheduling the public meeting set for tomorrow. Before any assets can be transferred from the county to the Historical Society, there must be an inventory completed. Commissioners would also restrict disposal of county property. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Brian Haupert, Chairman

Darle Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor