

January 3, 2000

County Auditor, Carol Stefanatos, called the Wabash County Commissioner meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the courthouse, with all members present. She entertained a motion to select a chairman for 2000. Lester Templin moved to retain Brian Hauptert as Chairman and Darle Dawes as Vice Chairman, second by Darle, and passed. All three Commissioners agreed to remain with their current appointments to other boards. Les moved to approve the minutes for the 12/20/99 meeting as written, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. They reviewed the Monthly Financial Report for December and the Jail/Memorial Hall custodian hours. Commissioners will talk with their current appointees to the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, C. Robert Elrod, and the Wabash City Plan Commission, Barry Eppley, about re-appointments. Commissioner Attorney, Tom Mattern, said he left a phone message asking a Life Med representative to attend today's meeting, but didn't get a response. Darle moved to re-appoint David Schuler and Morris Milliner to the Co. Plan Commission Board and Morris Milliner to the Co. Board of Zoning Appeals, second by Les, and passed. Plan Commissioner, Chad Dilling, will notify both men, and make sure they are agreeable to another term. Emergency Management director, Paul Bergman, said there were no year 2000 glitches reported to his command center between 6:00 p.m. on 12/31 and noon on 1/1, the state required staffing period. Commissioners signed an agreement making the firm of Butler, Fairman & Seufert the Construction Inspection staff for the Carroll Street bridge project. Two signed copies were forwarded to the state for signatures.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry says a GTE request to bury cable in the north right of-way of CR 900 N starting at 1076 W 900 N, then west for 1600 feet, looks okay. Commissioners signed the request. He also said his crew will take care of two bus turn around requests from MSD of Wabash County. One is at 2613 S 100 W Wabash, the Tom Chekouras property and the other is the barn driveway of the first house south of CR 1150 S on CR 600 W, the Jeff Vegso property.

Mike Clifton, Animal Control Board president, requested Commissioner support for an additional appropriation for wages for the full time and part time assistants at the Animal Shelter. They would like to request a minimum of \$9.00 per hour for the full time employee and \$8.50 for the part time position, as the turnover has been significant at the present wages of \$7.13 and \$6.38 respectively. Les noted the requests amount to a 28% increase for the full time position and 33% for the up to 20 hour per week clerical job. After deliberation, Commissioners offered two options they would support. (1) to eliminate the part time position to free additional funds for the full time assistant warden, or (2) request an increase of \$1.00 per hour for each position, an increase of 14% for full time and 15% for part time. In another matter, there's still concern about funds for legal services, as the Animal Control Board doesn't have spare money for this. The original intent of the Commissioners was to provide \$1,000. for one year from their budget, and then leave that responsibility to the shelter board. Les moved to have warden, Virginia Reahard present her legal bills for 2000 to the Commissioners for payment, to a maximum of \$1000., second by Darle, and carried. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor