

January 31, 2000

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. in the courthouse, with all members attending. Minutes of the 1/24 meeting were corrected to add that Commissioners adjourned at 11:00 to hold the Board of Finance annual meeting. Lester Templin moved to approve as corrected, second by Darle Dawes, and carried. Commissioners reviewed the Memorial Hall/Jail custodian hours, and the Weights & Measures annual report for 1999. They also reviewed and signed the 4th quarter report on the 5311 transportation grant thru the Council on Aging. Director, Deb Schneider, said transports over three quarters of 1999 exceeded their estimate of 16,000 for the entire year. She says they follow school policies during bad weather, and wondered if this should change, since many transports are to work places. She will present this to her board at their next meeting, and Commissioners suggested checking with police and road crews about road conditions. She also introduced Manchester College student, Steve Frizzo, who is interning with her for two months. Commissioners learned from Emergency Management director, Paul Bergman, that repairs to the Mississinewa Dam should take about 5 years, and begin in 2002. They also approved continuing to review his quarterly reports, rather than seeing only annual reports. Larry Hoover from Quality Electric presented a proposal for installing and removing courthouse dome Christmas lights beginning in 2001. His current fee of \$1900. (the same since 1995) will increase to \$2,250. plus the cost of bulb replacement. Since they hold up longer, he uses 130 volt bulbs with brass bases. Commissioners will plan for the change in their 2001 budget. They also asked Hoover to fix a blinking roof light on the southwest corner of the courthouse roof, when weather permits. Les moved to approve the annual appraisal of county buildings be done by Universal Valuation Consultants, at a cost of \$240., second by Darle, and passed. The cost is up from \$210. in 1998 and 1999. Darle moved to reappoint C. Robert Elrod to the Wabash River Heritage Commission for 2000, second by Les, and carried. Darle had spoken with Elrod, who agreed to another term. Les moved to approve County Corrections Fund Ordinance I, 2000, second by Darle, and passed. This allows receipt of funds from the State Department of Corrections, for deposit only into this fund, and used only for funding the operation of the county jail or jail programs.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Reports he attended the partnering workshop last week on new highway 24 E. The Wabash County portion should be completed by next September at the latest. Larry advised the group that better communications between the contractor and the county would be appreciated in the future. He also spoke with Geiger Construction, the contractor for the Huntington Co. section of new 24. Geiger asked Larry to approve closure of a section of CR 800 E for a longer period (up to 90 days) than the 60 days allowed in the contract. Approval wasn't granted today for an extension. Larry told Commissioners construction will include a deceleration lane at the intersection with CR 800 E, and suggested they might consider abandoning the section of CR 800 E between old and new roads 24, since there are no homes in that area, and the intersection is rather treacherous. It would save the expense of the turn lane and maintenance on the county road. Commissioners will consider the idea. Weather permitting, construction will begin Feb. 15th.

Judicial Building: Commissioner Attorney, Tom Mattern, reports required paperwork is being assembled for the upcoming meeting with the State Tax Board, for bond approval. He also reviewed the bond ordinance with Commissioners. Bill Bradley, WEDCOR director, reviewed the hearing information sheet submitted by Chris Johnston with Municipal Consultants, the financial advisors for the project. Bill says the facts and figures look correct. Les then moved to sign the Bond Ordinance for the building project, second by Darle, and carried. It is Wabash County Ordinance II, 2000.

Tim Roberts, Sheriff: Told Commissioners he's pleased with the new phone system. He also showed Commissioners a map of the areas annexed into the City of Wabash last year. He says it was set up for maximum revenue for the city, and minimum exposure to law enforcement responsibility. The dividing lines are located so that several roads, intersections and rail crossings are left to the county for maintenance and law enforcement. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Brian Hauptert, Chairman

Darle Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor