

July 17, 2000

Darle Dawes, Commissioner Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with Lester Templin present. Les moved to close bidding on two mowers for the highway department. Bids were from: New Holland, Rochester at \$59,806. for the tractor and mower with a boom, and \$48,689. for the other mower. Trade-in is \$5,000. for the 695 (1992) mower and \$6,000. for the 4210 (1995) unit. McKillip Equipment, Inc. bid \$57,898. for a boom mower unit, and \$ 41,917. for a regular mower. Trade-in is \$12,000. on the 4210 unit and \$10,000. on the 695. Both packages included Tiger mowers. Speedway New Holland sent a letter indicating they weren't bidding. Les moved to take the bids under advisement for review, second by Darle, and carried. Upon the recommendation of Joy Harber, Roann-Paw Paw Librarian, Les moved to appoint Peggy Coppler to the library board for a four year term thru July 2004, second by Darle, and passed. Minutes of the 7/10 meeting were approved as written, moved by Les, second by Darle, and carried. Commissioners reviewed the Treasurer's June report, the Memorial Hall/Jail custodian hours and the Weights and Measures annual report. Commissioner Attorney, Tom Mattern, reports there's a July 28th hearing in the Debra Spradlin vs Wabash Co. et al lawsuit. Attorney, John Johnston, represents the county on this case. Tom also said a letter included with a copy of a lawsuit filed in Lake Co. against their Auditor and Treasurer concerning tax sale surplus, encourages other counties to participate in the defense, as the suit may spread to other counties. Mr. Mattern is looking into the possibility of transferring funds from the dormant County Home account into Poor Relief, as helping the needy was the intent of the original bequeath. He would have to petition the judge for approval to make the change. Sheriff, Tim Roberts, will meet with the Roann Town Board tonight to learn more about their interest in hiring an off duty Sheriff deputy for 3 or 4 hours a couple nights a week, for additional security. Deputies would work on their own time, but would be using county equipment (ie: vehicles & gasoline). Commissioners are supportive of the plan as long as deputies don't over schedule themselves. Commissioner Hauptert arrived at 10:45 following an appointment. John Speidel, Jr. with Butler, Fairman & Seufert (BF&S) told Commissioners they need to consider adding a bridge to their federal project list, since the Carroll Street bridge will soon be removed from the list. The county is allowed four bridges on the list, and he suggested they consider a bridge on the Wabash/ Huntington County line, or # 208 on Old St. Rd. 24 W or # 505 on Ferry St. in Wabash. Commissioners will study the options. Commissioners also signed a letter of acceptance which allows BF & S to assist Prestress Ser.Inc. with design modifications on prestressed beams, some of which may be involved in the Carroll Street bridge project. The agreement eliminates any conflict of interest issues. Darle was pleased to report he checked this morning, and the tree and bushes have been cleared from the road right-of-way (R/W) in Urbana.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry introduced Toby Steffen with BF & S, who will be in charge of the Carroll St. bridge project. Steffen says relocating mussels will take about 3 weeks. Crews are clearing trees on the south bank, the water main should be shut down today and Cinery lines will be moved this week. The old bridge will be left intact and used by construction workers for now. Darle told Larry that Cyclone, Inc. hasn't yet installed a catch basin in Urbana. Larry reports there won't be any federal funds for railroad (RR) crossing safety available until April 2001. He estimates about 62 STOP signs are needed to cover all rural crossings that don't have arms or flashers. Signs and posts for these would cost about \$2900. It's possible about 1/2 dozen of these signs might lie in state road R/W. Darle asked Larry to update Linda Pyle, who broached a RR safety project initially. Larry's crews have completed about 10 miles of their 110 mile goal for chip and seal this season. He noted response from adjacent property owners varies. Larry is checking into reports that state crews working on State Rd. 15 repairs, are damaging America Road with heavy equipment.

Judicial building: Tom Haste, with Prince/Alexander Architects (P/A), updated on progress. The project is about two weeks behind schedule due to rain postponing foundation work. Commissioners reviewed and approved claims for August payment, including two change orders for Campbells Excavation. (1) \$12,109. for additional foundation and block work and (2) \$2,295.69 for additional materials stored due to the change in foundations and block work. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Haste, Les moved to approve the negotiated contract with Kellam Contracting for the rough carpentry section of package H at \$95,000., second by Darle, and passed. Haste is sure he can negotiate the original amount of \$98,876. to \$95,000. Les also moved to accept the negotiated proposal of \$160,020. from ADM Interiors of Fort Wayne for parts of package K, second by Darle, and carried.

R & B Properties abatement: William Roebel of R & B, and his attorney, Chuck Bash, asked Commissioners to reconsider the disallowed abatement for 1999 pay 2000 taxes. They contend they missed the required filing deadline because the assessor form 11 notice of assessment was sent to their old address, and they didn't know they were being taxed for the partially completed "spec" building in the Wabash North Industrial Park, until they received a tax statement last spring. Asking for reinstatement of the 100% abatement for 1999 pay 2000, Mr. Roebel, an investor, said he came to Wabash at the request of Bill Bradley with WEDCOR and then mayor, Robert McCallen. Roebel contends he understood there would be no taxes, period, until the building was occupied, although he had no proof of that in writing. Brian Hauptert noted this is a City of Wabash project and the county's part is primarily that of a banker, plus the county agreed to pay \$50,000. a year, for up to 3 years, towards interest payments. The Auditor has rejected the abatement filing as it wasn't filed until March 9, 2000, and should have been filed no later than June 14, 1999. Mr. Bradley suggested the Commissioners might consider a one time amnesty for any business that misses the abatement filing deadline. Commissioners will review the matter before making a decision. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor