

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 12/3 meeting were approved as written, moved by Brian Hauptert, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. They reviewed the Jail/Memorial Hall custodian hours. They learned a phone line has been installed in Marilyn Simpson's new office space, in Memorial Hall, and payment of the \$85.00 fee will come from the Health Department budget. After review of an offer from ABF Business Forms to extend their bid prices for 2A and 2B printed forms thru 2002, Darle moved to accept the offer, second by Brian, and passed. Les signed the request forms to switch the county's long distance phone service to Qwest, as previously approved. Commissioner Attorney, Tom Mattern, thanked Commissioners for their participation in the eminent domain hearings last Monday, and reports the judge has appointed three appraisers for the job. Carol Cly, a property owner along Old Rd. 15 S, is opposed to the federal project, and thinks it's fiscally irresponsible in these economic times. She would be willing to grant an easement to the county, but objects to losing her ground for a road she doesn't want improved. She also complained because the lawsuits were filed randomly, rather than in alphabetical or geographical order. Commissioners reviewed the White's Shelter Care agreement for 2002 with Probation director, Tina Edwards. Tina reports an average of 9.58 juveniles in detention daily, with about 7.4 per day at White's. The county reserves 5 beds daily at Whites. She doesn't recommend increasing the number, because we can rent beds as needed for the same cost we pay for the 5 reserved. That amount will increase from \$97.50 per bed per day, to \$100. in 2002. Tina reports families are never asked to pay part of the cost of detention. Brian moved to accept the agreement of 5 beds at \$100. per day for 2002, second by Darle, and passed. Tina asked for, and received, approval to hire an exterminator for a rodent problem in the Probation office. Elden Yohe, expressed concern about a 20 foot road right-of-way (R/W) being taken from his ground along CR 450 S. All his improvements have been based on a 15 ft. R/W approval from another board. The road is being relocated because it's off the section line, then will have chip and seal applied. After talking with Commissioners and Larry Rice, Mr. Yohe was satisfied. Commissioners signed an agreement between the county and the state for the two year bridge inspections, as recommended by John Speidel, Jr. with Butler, Fairman & Seufert. Commissioners will look at some wood folding chairs (about 2 1/2 dozen) and a work table the Health Department would like removed from their offices. They offered the pieces to the museum, but museum committee member, Jean Gilbert, said if the county wants to keep the items, they could be stored in the old museum space in Memorial Hall, for now.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry says there's a drainage problem on CR 1300 N between CR 100 W and CR 200 W. There are about six spots now, three with open holes, that present a danger for traffic when water runs over the road. Larry has recommended property owners seek to have the drain certified or regulated, but they haven't followed thru. Commissioners told Larry to send a letter asking owners to repair the drain. If they don't respond, and safety is an issue, the county will have to make repairs. In May of 2000, the county made repairs in the area, and billed the property owners. Larry reports the state has set bid letting dates for several county projects. (1) Old Rd. 15 S, 9/2002; (2) Bridge # 28 in Laketon, 1/2005; and (3) Bridge # 13 over Mississinewa 1/2003. Larry doesn't think Br. 28 should wait that long, and will check with the state. Larry presented estimates for work at the highway barn to upgrade the electrical system to 400 amp service, along with installation of 9 lights acquired by the fair board. Elmer's Electric estimates \$10,100. and Ruppel Electric quoted \$14,748. The Ruppel quote includes the cost of relocating the water heater, which must be done, and the Elmer's quote doesn't include that, but Larry says it can't possibly cost as much as the difference in the quotes. Larry will have to ask the Council for an appropriation from his Local Road & Street fund for the project. Darle wanted the minutes to reflect a conversation about limiting the cost of new trucks to \$50,000. each with trade. Larry presented a petition, signed by several county employees, requesting an additional five days of vacation time after one year of service. The request comes because no raises were granted for 2002. Commissioners won't address the request until after the first of the year.

CR 950 N dispute: Todd and Bob Rager and Bill Haywood were present in support of improving the road. Celia Shankster, her attorney, Phillip Odgen and Marlin Fingerle attended in opposition to opening the road, and indeed to date, have found no concrete proof a road ever existed at the location. Commissioners set 1/28/02 at 1:30 P.M. to hear the Rager and Shankster petitions. Brian says there's a misconception on this issue that Commissioners will choose sides. Actually, they must decide based on their understanding of the law. Larry Rice estimates about \$5,000. for labor and materials to lay a partial base, then a top layer of stone. Mr. Odgen says Mrs. Shankster is prepared to grant Mr. Rager a permanent right-of-way to his south 38 acres, but she will proceed with a quiet title action if the county chooses to improve the road before the petition hearings. Darle moved to make no improvements to the road until after the hearings, there was no second, so the motion died. Brian fears bad weather will pose a risk for the Haywood family safety, so Brian moved to do a temporary fix on the hill where vehicles might slide when it's wet, second by Darle, and passed. Larry Rice and the Commissioners will visit the site, so Larry knows what they want done.

Judicial building update: Tanya Zoellner, represented Pyramid Architects, and reviewed pay application # 19, with \$327,498.94 in payments plus \$2,933.78 to be held in retainage for a total of \$330,432.72. The claim also releases \$2,647.50 to Campbell's Excavating from their retainage account. Since the K & R Office Supply, Inc. and Rhoads Window Shop bills are for materials or equipment not yet installed, Commissioners want a Certificate of Insurance presented before the county releases the checks. The payment for carpeting materials will be payable to both K & M Floor Covering and Shaw Industries, due to some prior financial problems between the two parties. The Wings Contract Furnishing check will be held until the pews are installed. Darle questioned the Pyramid bill of \$13,667.50, saying if the county continues to pay them every month, there's no incentive to get the job done. Brian moved to approve pay application # 19, second by Darle, with the stipulation that Terry Burnworth with Pyramid, talk with Commissioners about a completion date, and passed. Tanya also presented several change orders (C/O) for Commissioner review. (1) \$9,000. to Quality Electric for electrical systems; (2) \$15,872.86 to Eclipse Masonry for limestone installation; (3) \$2,000. to Tag Coatings for painting; (4) \$9,354.98 to Campbells Excavating for storm sewer work; (5) \$937. to Premier Commercial Services for completion of ADM work; (6) \$6,750. to Ft. Wayne Roofing and Sheet Metal for roofing work that will be backcharged to R & M Construction's bond company; (7) \$607. to Ft. Wayne Roofing for an increase in the cost of shingle due to the project delay; (8) \$2,985. to Premier Commercial Services to wrap steel columns in red oak to match stairway; (9) \$450. to Premier Commercial for requested security changes. Brian moved to approve the change orders as presented, second by Darle, and passed. Tanya says the installation costs will exceed the Solid Waste District commitment of \$92,000. for recycled materials. Commissioners will address this issue at their Solid Waste District meeting. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Hauptert

Attest:

Carol Stefanatos, Auditor