

February 25, 2002

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order with all members present. Minutes of the 2/19 meeting were approved with two corrections to the highway department report, moved by Lester Templin, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. The roller to be scrapped weighs 5 tons and the warning sign request for Pleasant View Drive is in the east end of Sandy Beach Estates. Commissioners reviewed the Clerk's January report, the Memorial Hall/Jail custodian hours, the Weights and Measures monthly report and the Benicomp insurance report for January. They learned our current agent will look into alternative options, but thinks renewing with Benicomp will be the best deal. Commissioners set March 18th at 1:30 p.m. to hear medical insurance proposals for county employees, and want the employee committee reactivated. Commissioners completed a letter to M & W Construction, giving a deadline of March 4th for payment due a vendor. M & W has been compensated by the county for the delinquent claim. Copies will go to M & W, their attorney, the vendor and Pyramid Architecture. Commissioner Attorney, Tom Mattern, reports the response deadline in the Stephens Fabrication lawsuit with the county has been extended, for a second time, to March 15th. David Rutledge, President of Wells Fargo Bank in Wabash, presented loan documents for Commissioner approval and signature. The signed agreement allows the county to borrow up to \$500,000.00 as needed, to complete the judicial building. The three year loan with 4.55% interest, will be repaid with CEDIT funds. The county may repay up to \$250,000. in a calendar year, without penalty. A new account at Wells Fargo Bank will be established, with automatic withdrawal payments twice a year. The first payment is due July 10th. The loan has been approved by both the Commissioners and the County Council. Commissioners, in response to a request to move the Veterans Service office to the third floor of Memorial Hall, advised waiting until a building use plan is devised and museum artifacts are relocated to the new museum. County Clerk, JoAnn Hettmansperger, asked for, and received, permission to use the two east rooms on the third floor of the courthouse for storage of empty file cabinets. She also got the okay to leave books in shelves in her old office until she finds a place for them. They're all on microfilm, but the state won't allow her to dispose of them. She suggested the museum might want them for genealogy work. She's waiting on more movable file cabinets for her new location. Commissioners also told her she could use her old microfilm room in the courthouse basement for storage of her voting machines, at least for now. Commissioners told her she could buy another phone for her computer room, if she has the funds. She needs it to talk with the company when they're having computer problems. JoAnn reminded Commissioners she needs some place to hang coats in her office, and Darle said he told Mike Murphy about that last week, and the blind adjustor being too high. Commissioners told her they have ordered more blinds for her office. They told JoAnn, for now, the new building will be called the Judicial Center.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry looked at the Phillip Schlemmer property on Old St. Rd. 15 north, and noted the yard is high. He hasn't shot a transit yet, due to high winds, but says a drainage pipe would have to be at least 150 feet long. He says a request from SPRINT to bury cable and bore under the road at three locations looks okay. Commissioners signed approval for work on: (1) CR 700 W, 3000 feet from CR 250 N to CR 200 N; (2) on CR 300 N, from CR 600 W for 5600 feet to present boxes; (3) CR 675 W from CR 300 N south for 860 feet. Larry says the state is looking into warning signs with direction arrows for CR 1425 N and CR 1450 N. He reminded them of locations where that has already been done. Larry reports requests for quotes for a new shop/bridge truck, were hand delivered to 6 businesses within the county. Shepherds Chevrolet in North Manchester responded with a quote of \$19,575. for a 2002, 1 ton truck. Denney's of Wabash quoted \$19,670. for the same, plus a quote of \$18,800. for a new 2000 model on the lot, that exceeds specifications. Darle moved to select the 2000 model at \$18,800., if the warranty will be effective, with the Shepherds quote for a 2002 model as second choice, second by Les, and passed. After checking, Larry reported the warranty doesn't begin until the vehicle is licensed, so they will buy the 2000 truck from Denney's. In response to Larry's query, Commissioners said no changes would be made in the employee vacation policy until they know what amount of money will be coming back from the state. Brian would rather see the Council pay for another week of vacation this year, rather than permantly changing county policy. Steve Johnson, Solid Waste director, is working with Larry to get a second chipper for the highway department. They'll apply for a grant that pays half the cost of the chipper, however, there are requirements that must be met before the April 30th application deadline. They set a meeting on 3/18 at 9:00 A.M. and a hearing date of 4/8 at 9:00.

Jail work: Tom Scheffer, Jim Bailey and Michael Wolford with Havel Brothers, updated on progress at the jail. Three air handler units of the ventilation system have been fixed, with 7 more to repair. With other unexpected work, including rusted shower drains the county spent about \$41,000. last year. It will take another \$28,000. to repair the remaining ventilation units, which aren't moving much air, since they're so dirty. Commissioners signed a one year contract with Havel Brothers for a reduced rate of \$59.00 per hour for labor, plus a 5% cut on supplies' cost. The regular rate is \$65.00 per hour. Generally, the county isn't charged for travel time, as Wolford lives here. With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Brian K Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor