

March 18, 2002

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order with all members present. Minutes of the 3/11 meeting were approved as written, moved by Lester Templin, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. They reviewed the Clerk and Treasurer reports for February and the February Benicomp insurance report. Brian and the Auditor signed the grant application for the Victim Assistance program coordinated by the Prosecutor's office. It runs from 7/1/02 thru 6/30/03, and local matching funds of \$4,598.60 are in the Prosecutor's budget. Commissioners read a notice from Insight Communications advising of a potential rate increase for basic television cable service. Serving the City of Wabash, Insight proposes an increase from \$10.50 to \$12.77 per month due to increased costs. After talking with Sara Reyman, Rural Communities Assistance Program, who is working on the grant application for funds to hire an engineering firm to study and recommend options for a Servia water upgrade, she agreed to add a statement to the proposed contract indicating Wabash County is designated the "owner" only for the preliminary engineering phase of the project, isn't an "owner" of any water system and is exempt from any liability as part of this study. Sara says the county is the "owner" in the contract because Servia isn't incorporated and the Dept. of Commerce awards grants only to counties and municipalities. Sara has heard tentatively from IDEM that Servia wells won't have to be relocated. Commissioners signed a letter to Kone Elevator & Escalators, prepared by their attorney, Tom Mattern, giving notice of their desire to terminate the maintenance agreement for courthouse elevator service dating back to 4/1/1994. Tom also noted Stephens Fabrication has filed a notice with the court that they are negotiating a settlement with the county. Both parties have agreed to a settlement. The Commissioners and Mr. Mattern discussed the appraisal reports submitted for Old St. Rd. 15 S. It appears they were appraised at fair market value, as if the land is usable, rather than being mostly under an existing road. Les thinks none of the three appraisers have experience with road right-of-way (R/W) appraisals. The state formula figures fair market value, then takes 5% of that for R/W appraisals. Those who have already granted R/W based on the state formula, would have no recourse to collect additional funds. Tom presented statutes on exception to appraisal reports and payment of damages. Commissioners have 20 days from March 8th to respond. County Clerk, Jo Ann Hettmansperger would like a wall added in the courthouse storage room for her voting machines. It's needed for security for the voting machines, and so the remainder of the room could be used for other purposes. Commissioners will check costs, maybe using inmates for some labor. She says the state is pressing her to go online, and Les suggested using her fax line, as long as it's a dedicated line. When online, she couldn't send or receive faxes, but she could work around that. Jo Ann will investigate further. The Auditor advised Commissioners the available cash in the County General Fund is \$94,165.20 following the 3/18 payroll. Claims to be paid April 1st total about \$547,000.00, then payroll must be covered. This year to date, \$1,513,707. has been paid from County General funds for wages and claims. There won't be much money from the state until the May CEDIT and CAGIT payments. Mrs. Stefanatos is looking into the feasibility of transferring \$126,586.26 from the dormant Revolving Loan fund, set up for a loan to Bulldog Battery Co. in January of 1988. She will also check into requirements for a temporary loan from another account, such as the Local Road & Street fund that has a balance of \$4,000,000. The loan would have to be repaid by the end of 2002.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry presented a copy of his 2001 annual and inventory reports for review. Larry says the electrical work in the highway barn is almost completed. At Larry's request, Commissioners will ask Co. Surveyor, John Stephens, to permanently stake CR 950 N before he improves the road. Commissioners and Larry will look at a request from Jim Burdett of Laketon, for stone in an unimproved alley near his home. He has a permit to build a garage on his back lot, and needs the alley for access. Larry says his department has added stone to existing alley's before, but improving an unimproved alley for an individual would set a precedent. Commissioners will also look at an offer from Otto Wolfe, Laketon, to sell the county some ground near the intersection of CR 200 W and Tamarak Street. It accesses Ogden Road, is near the fire station and there's a great deal of traffic. It's on Wolfe's property, and he is concerned about liability from possible accidents. At some time the lane was gravelled, and it has been graded, but Larry says it's not been maintained since he joined the department in 1995. Larry thinks utilities might use the road, and that the Pleasant Township Trustee might be interested in keeping the road, too. Mr. Wolfe says he'd pay for a survey if needed. Steve Johnson, Wabash Co. Solid Waste District, says Larry has sent notices to state waste haulers as required, of the intent to apply for a grant to get a second brush chipper. Any response comments must be included in the grant application, along with today's Commissioner Minutes indicating Commissioner support to proceed. Legal notice of the 4/8/02 public hearing is the next step. Les moved support of the grant application, second by Darle, and passed.

Judicial Center: Clerk Hettmansperger, reports neither the elevator nor the dumbwaiter passed the state inspection, but after additional work, both have passed. The dumbwaiter is dirty on the inside from a roof leak, that has been repaired, and since there are only partial sides, some files had to be retrieved after they fell over the side. She also needs to know that she has telephone service directly to her office for election day, as she will receive many calls, and is worried about the automated system. Tanya Zoellner with Pyramid Architects, presented Pay Application 22 totaling \$105,584.26. Les moved to approve payment, second by Darle, and passed with Brian abstaining. Les moved to approve the Change Orders presented by Tanya, second by Darle, and passed, with Brian abstaining.

Employee medical insurance: Employee representatives and Commissioners listened to two presentations. Beauchamp & McSpadden Insurance, represented by Skip Daughtry and Carrie Reece, along with Neil Ropp of Core Benefits, Inc. presented a proposal from American National Insurance. Ropp says cost shouldn't be the primary decision formula, that compliance and disclosure along with flexibility and local control are of primary importance. Allen Miracle, James Greer and Joe Clark, presented a renewal package from our current carrier Benicomp. They offered the addition of a 20% prescription card, a \$15.00 per visit doctor co-pay and \$150. wellness visit to our coverage, for virtually the same cost as our current coverage. The county's share of the specific deductible would increase from \$10,000. to \$15,000. per covered member, with aggregate deductible decreased from \$30,000. to \$25,000. Employees will share the options with co-workers and advise Commissioners of the response by next Monday. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST:

Carol Stefanatos, Auditor