

SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

Commissioner Vice Chairman, Darle Dawes, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Chairman, Brian Hauptert, was absent, attending an emergency meeting called by the Town of No. Manchester regarding ambulance services. Lester Templin moved to approve the 9/23 minutes as written, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners reviewed the Clerk's August report, the Jail/ Judicial custodian hours and the Benicomp Insurance Report for July and August. Darle and the Auditor attended an exit conference with the State Board of Accounts (SBA) on 9/26. SBA shared their findings and suggestions from the 2000 and 2001 audits. Clerk, Lori Draper proposed a policy change for bank charges caused by Stop payment requests and checks returned for insufficient funds. Les moved to amend the policy, effective 10/1/02, to state fees will be equal to the amount the respective banks charge for these services, second by Darle, and passed. Lori is still negotiating with Wells Fargo Bank concerning service charges on her account, and comparing policies and services at other local banks. Les moved to appoint Wabash Fire Chief, Tim Niccum, to the E-911 Board, as the fire/paramedic representative, second by Darle, and passed. Niccum, who agreed to accept the appointment, replaces Arvin Copeland on the board. After reviewing the 911 Ordinance and the law pertaining to it, Commissioner Attorney, Tom Mattern, says the fiscal body is responsible for a fee change, not the executive body, even though the original ordinance was signed by both the Commissioners and Council. In order to effect the change in January 2003, Commissioners asked Tom to prepare an amended ordinance that both entities could sign. Co. Assessor, Kelly Schenkel, presented estimates for painting, electrical work and carpeting in the former Clerk's office. Totaling about \$3700., the estimates don't include possible linoleum for the entry area. Kelly says the space isn't large enough for both her office and the Noble Township Assessor, she needs the entire space for her office. Les reminded the Recorder's office needs additional space, too. Commissioners will meet with Kelly, Recorder, Donna Friedersdorf, and Noble Assessor, Brenda Conner later today. Kelly would like to move into the space before December.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry says he delivered specifications for the Roann Covered Bridge project to A & A Cleaners, but hasn't received a quote, yet. Larry suggested to John Forrester on CR 700 E, that he might petition to have 990 feet of the gravel road vacated before Forrester has it paved, rather than waiting for the county to widen the road to bring it up to specifications, then Forrester would pave it. Since the adjacent land belongs to the Army Corps of Engineers, Larry is doing further research. Commissioners set November 4th at 9:30 A.M. as the deadline to accept bids for a new grader for the highway department. Larry says a SPRINT request to lay new cable for 738 feet on CR 950 N, east of CR 800 W, looks okay. The project extends into Miami County. Les moved to approve the request pertaining to Wabash County property, second by Darle, and passed. Larry says Chris Tyson will do the work on an Indiana American Water Company road cut request at Second and Maple Street in Somerset. Tyson will pack the opening and top it with asphalt. Les moved to approve the request, second by Darle, and passed. Larry will talk with the two property owners on CR 150 N (Lawson Rd.). The gravel road dead-ends at new Rd. 24 E, with no cul-de-sac or turn around for busses or plows. Chances are slim INDOT would allow the fence to be moved at the dead-end. Commissioners asked Larry to negotiate with the property owners for a resolution. Steve Jones, with United Consultants Engineering, presented an agreement for Construction Inspection on bridge 208 over the railroad on old 24 W. The county would pay 20% of the \$ 66,500. fee for this federal project. Larry told Commissioners Steve McCammack, with INDOT, told him they would like to be considered for upcoming projects, as they are needing work. Les moved to sign the agreement with United Consultants for bridge 208, second by Darle, and passed. Bids will be let in December.

Old Rd. 15 S: Tom Mattern reports Judge Vanderpool has withdrawn from the case and a new judge must be selected. Tom has struck the Huntington Co. judge, leaving the Grant Co. and Kosciusko Co. judges as choices. Defendants in the case may strike one of the two remaining judges, and if they don't, Tom may petition the Co. Clerk to strike one judge. This all takes time, and will extend the court date. Tom has notified involved parties of the delay and will advise them when a new court date is set. Les hasn't talked with Mark Guenin to learn details of Guenin's offer to mediate with property owners on right-of-way settlement. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

Attest: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor