

May 27, 2003

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order with all members present. Minutes of the 5/12 meeting were approved as written, moved by Brian Haupert, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket, the Payroll Check Register and the Accounts Payable Voucher Register. They reviewed April Financial reports from the Clerk and Treasurer, the Benicomp April report, the Weights and Measures Monthly report and the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours. Phil Van Baalen, Weights and Measures director, announced he would like to resign his position July 11th, after he completes the annual state report. His records are computerized and he will pass them along to the new director. He has enjoyed the job, but wants to cut his hours, and will continue as the Miami Co. Weights and Measures director. Commissioners thanked him for his service, and Brian moved to accept his resignation effective 7/11/03, second by Darle, and passed. The Auditor will advertise the position. Upon the recommendation of the Board of Health, Brian moved to appoint Dr. Regan M. Andade to the board, second by Darle and passed. She will complete the term of Wabash School Superintendent, Robert Taylor, thru 12/04. Les had a request from Maurice Lively to place a boat he's selling in front of the Animal Control building. Commissioner consensus is not to start that policy. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, reports the trial date for Old Rd. 15 S eminent domain suit is 10/15/03 at 9:00 A.M. in Cass County. He hopes ongoing negotiations will allow him to dismiss the case. No involved property owners attended the hearing. Regarding purchase of the REMC tower, Brian says Larry Thrusch is preparing a contract between REMC and the county that Tom will want to review. Tom will need to prepare a contract between the county and the Wabash Co. Solid Waste District, granting the county lifetime authority to maintain a tower on the site. Bob Brown, Emergency Management director, reports there will be a joint annual exercise of the Local Emergency Planning Council and Emergency Management on June 14th. He's progressing on his Homeland Security Plan. Commissioners signed a contract with Tony Stout to run the Surplus Sale on June, 27th. His fee is 15% of the sale plus reimbursement for advertising, the same as last year. Les and Council Chair, Paul Sites, will attend the settlement conference for Todd Wheatley on 5/30 in the Ft. Wayne Federal Courthouse.

Resolution 4, 2003: A resolution to keep the Cumulative Bridge levy the same as it was in 2002. While working on our 2003 budget, the Dept. of Local Government Finance proposed the transfer of \$178,269. from the County General Fund into the Cumulative Bridge Fund due to reassessment and no change in the Cum Bridge tax rate. Since we don't want Co. General further drained, Brian moved to approve Resolution # 4, second by Darle, and passed.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry had laser shots from the Frank Monroe property on CR 500 S at St. Rd. 15. Larry didn't locate a culvert under the railroad, what is most needed to help Monroe with drainage. The consensus is that Monroe's problem isn't a county issue. Les will talk with Mr. Monroe. Larry checked the water problem at the intersection of CR 700 S and 550 W and found water running under the road as it should. Les will talk with area owners who are concerned drainage is slower since a phone cable was installed. Larry says an equalizing culvert on CR 600 E, about 3/10 mile south of Dora Rd. doesn't have any place to drain since the ground on the other side of the road is higher. The worst log jam he's seen has been cleared by Hank's Construction at the Laketon bridge. There's another one, yet to be cleared, on Treaty Creek. He heard from Norfolk & Southern Railroad they have a year from this May to complete the Ruth Street crossing closing in Urbana and installation of gates and flashers on CR 500 N. Larry had a right-of-way service agreement for the recreational access road project on CR 950 S and 300 S. Butler Fairman & Seufert (BF&S) will provide the services for a fee of \$ 131,000. The state intends to let construction bids in March 2004. Commissioners signed the contract with BF&S, and Brian moved for Larry to request an additional appropriation for the fee from Local Road & Street, second by Darle, and passed. Larry says a VERIZON request to bury cable looks okay, they're replacing existing cable. The work starts at St. Rd. 124, heading north for 2600 ft. on CR 500 W. Commissioners signed the request. In response to a letter from the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), Larry suggests the Roann and North Manchester covered bridges, along with the steel truss bridge at Liberty Mills be included on an historical bridge list. LTAP is setting up a statewide database. Brian moved to include those three bridges on the list, second by Darle, and passed. Larry will respond to the letter. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Haupert

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor