

June 30, 2003

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 6/23 meeting were approved as written, moved by Darle Dawes, second by Brian Hauptert, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. They reviewed the Clerk and Treasurer reports for May. The Auditor reports the county will receive \$96,133.55 in August from lottery funds. These funds are being distributed to counties without river-boat gambling, and may be placed in the Co. General Fund. They also may be used to reduce the property tax levy, for police and fire pensions, debt repayment or sewer and water projects. Commissioners learned the annual Surplus Sale grossed \$10,807.00 and auctioneer, Tony Stout, will receive 15% plus advertising fees of \$89.00 for his work. Brian moved to sign a contract with Wabash Valley Refuse Removal for weekly trash pick-up at the courthouse complex, second by Darle, and passed. At \$60.00 per month, the agreement may be cancelled, with notice from either party, and doesn't renew automatically.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: They're still mowing, and have both mowers working. They have completed 6.5 miles of chip and seal. Larry presented a road cut request from Larry Keiffer for 500 ft. south of CR 350 S on America Road. Keiffer will do the work and furnish material. Pending are a letter of agreement from the adjacent neighbor and a choice between a 15" or 18" tile. Brian moved approval of the request once the two issues pending are satisfied, along with assessment of the \$100. maintenance fee, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners signed an agreement with the state for phase III of the Old St. Rd. 15 S project between St. Rd. 124 and Meridian Road. It indicates right-of-way (R/W) width meets federal standards and additional R/W has been procured. Darle moved to approve a VERIZON request for a road cut on CR 400 W, starting at CR 900 S, then proceeding south for 1585 feet in the west R/W, second by Brian, and passed. They will bore under CR 900 S, and Larry said the proposal looks okay.

Sheriff, Leroy Striker: Sheriff Striker presented an additional appropriations request of \$28,500. from E-911 funds. For the mapping systems upgrade, it's reimbursement for a grant from the state. Brian moved approval to present the request to the Co. Council, second by Darle, and passed. Leroy suggested using inmates to do some clean-up and repair work in county cemeteries. Commissioners referred Striker to the township trustees who are in charge of cemetery maintenance. Ted Hurley with J&K Communications had a quote of \$23,316.50 to place the fire antenna on top of the former REMC tower and add a 100 watt repeater. E-911 funds will cover the cost and will need appropriated. Brian moved approval to proceed as quoted, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners didn't act on a proposal from J&K to move the REMC tower equipment from the shower room area of the building soon to be owned by the Solid Waste District, a distance of about 30 feet. The proposal was for \$1800.00 Les suggested a door on the room instead. Commissioners will talk with the Solid Waste District board.

Co. Clerk, Lori Draper: Lori reports, voter registration clerk, Helen Wenger, will soon retire. At this point Lori will fill the part time position internally. She will leave that line item in her budget for next year at a reduced amount, as a presidential election year may call for extra help. The payment box is here, but not ready for installation. It may be used for payments to the Co. Treasurer, too.

Roann Covered bridge: Vonnell Krom with the Roann Covered Bridge Association, presented a quote from Brady Brower with Then & Now Construction to paint the bridge for \$10,500.00 Other vendors were approached, but this was the only response. The association asked the county to pay for half the cost. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, said the county could name the bridge association the lead agency for the project, and Darle moved to go that route and contribute \$5,000. from the Covered Bridge fund, second by Brian, and passed.

Emergency Management: Director, Bob Brown, reports notification from the Office of Domestic Preparedness and Homeland Security of a grant approval in the amount of \$26,919.00. He needs to have a committee to work on the project, and suggested the Emergency Management board. Funds may be used for equipment purchases, and he has a list of allowed equipment. Commissioners agreed with his committee suggestion.

Road closure hearings: At 10:00 A.M., Larry Rice advised the proposed closings had been properly advertised, and affected parties notified. CR 950 N, beginning at CR 200 W and continuing in a mostly westerly direction, fording the Eel River and continuing mostly in a westerly direction along and to the south of the "mill race" where it then intersected with what is commonly known as CR 250 W (Troyer Rd.) on the south side of the mill race. Property owner Celia Shankster, spoke, asking for all the reasons for closing the road, the meaning of the word intersected in the context of closing the road, and when a change in road numbering came about. Commissioners said this is an attempt to correct an error made in December 1989, and that the 1989 action has been rescinded. Tom Helvey says he owns two acres on the east side of the river, north behind the cemetery, and would be partially landlocked if he no longer had access thru the cemetery. He would have to put a bridge over an open ditch. There's also a petroleum pipeline under the road with access easement. Les asked if there were any objections to closing the specified section of road, and there were none. Brian moved to close a section of CR 950 N as described, second by Darle, and passed. CR 1300 N beginning at CR 700 W and continuing west, ending at CR 800 W (Wabash and Fulton Co. line). Larry talked with two adjacent property owners who are okay with closing the road. With no dissenters present, Darle moved to close CR 1300 N as described, second by Brian, and passed. CR 700 E beginning at CR 50 S and continuing south 990 feet to a dead end. Two owners involved, one being the Corps of Engineers. Larry is expecting a letter from the Corps giving their approval, but he hasn't yet received it. Brian moved to close CR 700 E as described pending receipt of the Corps' letter, second by Darle, and passed. Mr. Mattern will prepare an ordinance, but hold it until receipt of the letter.

Pleasant Township communication tower: Attorney, Doug Lehman, representing the Pleasant Township Trustee and the Advisory board, asked Commissioners to place a fence around the tower for safety and liability purposes. He had a two year old quote from J & K Communications to erect a fence for \$1710.00. Commissioners agreed to address that matter along with the newly acquired tower at the former REMC building. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Hauptert

ATTEST:

Carol Stefanatos, Auditor