

JULY 14, 2002

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 7/7 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 June report from Benicomp for medical insurance. Darle moved to support the home ownership programs of counseling and down payment assistance, sponsored by Pathfinders Services. Second by Brian, and passed. After learning Larry Urschel would accept an appointment to the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals, Darle moved to approve the appointment for 2003, second by Brian, and passed. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, presented Ordinance III, 2003, closing portions of CR 950 N, CR 1300 N, and CR 700 E, as approved by Commissioners 6/30/03. Convention and Visitors Bureau director, Trula Frank, presented her budget for 2004. The total budget of \$86,296. is down from \$91,000. for 2003. Darle questioned the fact that her medical insurance is paid entirely by budgeted funds, while county employees must pay 25% of their insurance costs. Trula replied her funds are generated by the innkeepers tax, and she isn't a county employee. Dallas Duggan, Chief of Probation, reported he didn't get the grant for the "day reporting" program, but is applying for a block grant, and asking local businesses to contribute towards a scaled down program. All funds would need to go thru the county financial records. Commissioners agreed, and support his efforts. Les signed close-out paperwork for the Servia Water project, including a Semi-annual report, a disclosure report and a certification letter indicating the courthouse is handicapped accessible. Co. Treasurer, LuAnn Layman reports property tax statements will be mailed 7/18, with payment deadlines of 8/15 and 11/10. An enclosed letter advises the statement serves as notice of reassessment, and suggests owners review their new assessed values and talk with the Assessor if they have concerns.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: He will have pictures next week of the wash-out on CR 700 S, it needs attention. Four roads are closed due to high water, and it may be two weeks before they are opened. Included are: CR 500 S between 700 E and 800 E, CR 700 E between 400 S and 500 S, CR 800 E at 500 S at the Huntington Co. line, and CR 200 S around Mount Hope, one half mile west of 750 E. There are several wash-outs being repaired. About 33 trees were downed by the storms and rain, but that is mostly cleaned up. The high water signs on CR 100 S may be removed because the problem no longer exists. Commissioners agree that Larry should suggest Whitley Co. repair the wooden bridge on the county line. Wabash Co. has done the last two repairs. Larry shared pictures of damage on CR 200 E and 800 S, caused by trucks from a nearby dairy business. Larry will contact the proper party about repairs, and the cost. Les asked Larry to check a culvert on CR 1000 N, around 500 E. Larry said they have been working on it, already. Larry learned the Co. Clerk is ready to have the payment box installed, whenever he has men available. LuAnn says water has washed out the dirt on CR 700 W at 400 N.

Sheriff, Leroy Striker reports bunk beds will arrive soon so no inmate will have to sleep on the floor. They are what is used in other correctional institutions, and may be dismantled and stored when not needed. There are 94 in jail today. Commissioners support his efforts to find state and federal grants for work release and/or home detention programs. This is an effort to reduce jail census.

Bob Brown, Emergency Management: Bob had pictures from last week's storm damage. He's monitoring reservoir releases of water, thru the Corps of Engineers. FEMA estimates state wide damage could exceed 100 million dollars. Bob would like to place equipment on the new county tower. It's currently on the Sheriff tower. Hopefully that would improve his communications toward the north.

Chad Dilling, Plan Commission: Chad reports the Greg Charles family in Frances Slocum Estates have placed a fixed basketball goal in road right-of-way, using the county road as a court. Commissioners will ask Larry Rice to contact the family and give them a specified time period to remove it without penalty. Chad said the Town of LaFontaine should be notified about a home on Main Street, just south of the bridge, as it's under their jurisdiction. Environmental sanitarian, Harvey Omstead, should be notified about the foul smell and rodents. Chad has received information for updating the local Flood Plain Ordinance, and must submit a revised draft by September. He will notify property owners on CR 600 E, 1000 S, and 1050 S, that vegetation is obstructing the view, thus presenting a safety hazard on the roadway.

Spring Valley Landfill: Attorney, Don Metz, and Wabash Valley Landfill (WVL) district manager, Dave Welling, updated the status of WVL acquiring the Spring Valley Landfill (SVL) from the county. The Dept. of Local Government Finance (DLGF) finally approved the WVL petition to acquire and clean the SVL site. IDEM has approved their plan for clean-up, and will waive the 3 million dollar judgement. Don has petitioned Judge Vanderpool to order a deed to WVL. That hearing is set for 8/11/03. Meanwhile, Larry Roseman with RLG, the owner of record of SVL, has reappeared, hired an attorney, and has appealed the IDEM decision, based on the fact WVL was not the owner of record at the time they petitioned IDEM. Don asked Commissioners to consider taking title to the SVL property because of delinquent taxes, then immediately deed to WVL. Commissioners aren't comfortable with liability issues if they assume ownership, even briefly. Metz will continue to monitor progress. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Hauptert

ATTEST:

Carol Stefanatos, Auditor