

AUGUST 4, 2003

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order with Brian Hauptert absent, helping move museum contents. Darle Dawes moved approval of the 7/28 minutes as written, second by Les, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket, the Payroll Check Register and the Accounts Payable Voucher Register. They reviewed the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours. Darle moved to extend the long distance telephone contract with Intelenet for 12 months, second by Les, and passed. The state has an agreement with Qwest for four more years at 3.5 cents per minute, and the Intelenet contract allows the county to participate at that rate. Telephone services consultant, Steve Kasper, recommended Commissioners extend the contract in any 12 month increment, to a maximum of 48 months. Russell Cox, Twin Lakes Estates resident, had concerns about water run-off from lots 1, 2 and 3 in Unit 2 block 6, and about a new trailer without a septic system. Sheriff Striker said a stop work order was issued last Friday for the trailer, and Les said he will talk with Environmental Sanitarian, Harvey Omstead, about the water issue. Bob Brown, Emergency Management director, presented two grants for Commissioner approval. Grant one, the State Homeland Security grant in the amount of \$26,919.20, is thru the Office of Domestic Preparedness/ Dept. of Homeland Security. The second grant in the amount of \$30,000.00, is a sub grant thru the Dept. of Homeland Security. Counties may purchase equipment from a selective list included in the grant application. Bob says his department complies with Title 10, a requirement for grant application. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, had reviewed both grants, and says the county is the receiving and handling party, also responsible for accounting records. Bob would be responsible for some reports. Brian, who had joined the meeting, moved to support both grant applications, second by Darle, and passed. Bob says the final draft of his Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan goes to the state for review today. Bob is pleased with the plan and Paul Bergman's assistance with developing it. He hopes the state approves it as presented.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Department: Larry reports 66 miles of chip and seal are completed. After meeting with FEMA representatives on Friday, his department has an estimate of \$97,500. for storm damage expenses. Railroad (R/R) approval of plans is required before proceeding with bridge # 208 project over the R/R on Old Rd. 24 west. The R/R will charge a standard fee of \$7500. for reviewing plans. Darle moved approval for Larry to request an additional appropriation of \$7500.00, and notify the R/R funds are available to pay the review fee, second by Les, and passed. This will encourage the R/R to proceed with review of the plans. Larry says the Laketon bridge project is on schedule, and will be open when school begins on 8/19. There will still be finish work to complete. Commissioners signed a Construction and Project Agreement for Phase III of the Old Rd. 15 S. project with Butler, Fairman & Seufert (BF&S). The county attests funds are available for the project, and agrees to pay their 20% share. John Speidel, Jr, with BF&S, says the northern section, Phase III, is set for a 9/16 bid letting. Les urged Speidel to accelerate preparations for the south phase, as it's condition is worse. Speidel will try, but reminds, meeting all the required steps take time. Speidel says because this project has been ongoing for several years, BF&S has costs that exceed their billing in excess of \$190,000.00. They will apply to the state for funding relief, and if approved, the county will be responsible for 20% of relief payment to BF&S. When asked where the county would get the extra funds, Speidel confirmed the county would have to agree to sign a contract to pay the extra funds. Larry will look at the Melba Cox home on Old Rd. 15 S. Dirt from an adjacent owner is the problem. It may be within the Wabash City jurisdiction.

WEDCOR: Director, Chris Martin, and Board President, Dave Rutledge, presented their new marketing video, along with a new tri-fold brochure, both made possible by increased funding from city and county units for 2003. In the video, business leaders promote Wabash County. There are also many county highlights along with aerial photographs of available sites. They are keeping an expanded web site updated. Rutledge says the South Industrial Park is full, G & S Metals bought the last parcel, and new signs promote both industrial parks as you enter Wabash. They're working to give the county a more unified look, by hosting gatherings between Wabash and North Manchester businesses, so they may interact and learn what services are available. They bought a new van, equipped with video equipment for entertaining visitors transported from airports, or taken on tours of the county. To date one loan has been approved from the newly established Revolving Loan Fund. Rutledge says they have had several inquiries about the Scott's Grocery and K-Mart buildings. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Hauptert

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor