

September 15, 2003

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with Brian Hauptert absent. Minutes of the 9/8 meeting were approved as written, moved by Darle Dawes, second by Les, and passed. Commissioners reviewed the Treasurer Report for August, the Benicomp Insurance August report and the Jail/ Judicial Center custodian hours. Les said Quality Electric suggested a maintenance agreement to purge the HVAC units in the Courthouse, Judicial Center and Memorial Hall periodically, rather than servicing them individually as needed. It would be necessary, at least once a year, to keep the units running smoothly, without plugging up. Commissioners will pursue the suggestion. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, noted receipt of a letter from a collection agency regarding a delinquent account with Parkview Hospital. The substantial charges of nearly \$50,000. were for a former inmate, and Sheriff Striker says there are technicalities concerning the official release date and pre-existing conditions. Tim Roberts, Sheriff at the time of the incident, has been advised to wait and see whether the collection agency pursues litigation. Emergency Management director, Bob Brown, asked Commissioners to approve an independent contractor agreement as part of one of his Homeland Security grants. Rachel Van Camp would assist with research, and data compilation of documents associated with the Wabash Co. Comprehensive Emergency Management Basic Plan. Under the direction of Bob, her work wouldn't exceed 60 hours and she would be paid \$9.00 per hour. Les signed approval. Steve Johnson, Solid Waste Management director, presented a proclamation for Commissioner support. It designates the last full week of September as Eliminate Expired Drugs Environmentally Week (Sept. 22-27). Rather than flushing or dumping these drugs, which have the potential to harm the environment, they may be taken to one of seven places for safe disposal. Les and Darle signed the proclamation. Co. Clerk, Lori Draper, reports her new server will be installed Wednesday, and court records won't be available during that time. She hopes to be running again by Thursday. Stuart Savka, with Triad Associates, told Commissioners there is grant money available for studies of water and sewage options for small communities. The state is targeting small communities without sewer systems, and his firm would do the study. Savka says the IN Dept. of Environmental Management is looking at regionalization of services, in an effort to cut costs. Commissioners are reluctant to proceed with a study that brings attention to small communities, and forces expenses they can't afford. Scott Siders and town board member, Alan Tribbett, talked with Commissioners about two buildings in Lagro that need razed for safety. Lagro township resident, Tom Bumgardner, also present, agreed. The Plan Commission declared them unsafe 1 1/2 years ago, but County Council did not appropriate funds to do the job. Robert Smith is the owner of record for one, and United Companies Lending, holds title to the other. Both have delinquent taxes due, but have only been in the tax sale one year, so title won't be transferred to the county soon. About the only option is to again ask Council for funds to raze the them.

Co. Highway Dept., Phil Amones, assistant supervisor: There will be a meeting on 9/23 regarding the Staver ditch. The highway dept. may need to change some drains under roads as part of this project. There will be a field check on Old Rd. 15 S bridges on 9/30 at 9:00 A.M., to make sure all is set to progress towards construction. Bill Dillard, with United Consulting Engineers gave Phil a \$10,650. cost over-run bill for bridge # 28 at Laketon. Extra costs were incurred in the removal of the old bridge, however some jobs were under the estimate, so the county should owe 20% of an additional \$4,500. Darle and Les agreed to sign the change order, previously approved by the state. Phil says the bridge on Old 15 S at Treaty Creek will need more work than originally thought, however, the collapsed section might be eligible for disaster subsidy from FEMA, according to a FEMA representative who looked at it. Phil has asked three contractors for quotes to repair it, but hasn't received responses from all of them yet.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: Leroy gave Tom Mattern a sample "false alarm" ordinance for review. The Sheriff suggested a penalty of not less than \$100. and not more than \$500.00 for each false alarm response after an initial two or three freebies. An annual user fee of \$150.00 for placing each alarm in the system, could be included. Commissioners asked Mr. Mattern to review the agreement with Health Professionals for inmate medical services. The one year contract is for \$85,000.00, and in return, all medical services are provided. A nurse practitioner would visit the jail three days a week to evaluate inmate illnesses. Leroy's 2004 budget for medical is \$75,000.00, but he will cover the difference in house. All involved would like the new program in effect by 10/01. Costs for the plan are based on an average daily census of 90, and work release inmates and Dept. of Correction inmates aren't included in the program. Commissioners will make a decision on 9/22. The Sheriff is concerned about over population at the jail (currently 122), and is working diligently to lower the census. He's looking into starting a Community Corrections program, which would house C and D misdemeanor offenders. There are grants available, and he's looking for housing options. He invited Commissioners to attend a meeting on 9/18. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Hauptert

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor