

Commissioner Chairman, Lester Templin, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 11/17 meeting were approved as written, moved by Darle Dawes, second by Brian Hauptert, and passed. Commissioners reviewed the October Reports for the Co. Clerk, Weights & Measures and the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours. Commissioners noted receipt of a Certificate of Liability Insurance good thru 11/04 for United Consulting Engineers, sent by Walker & Associates Insurance of Indianapolis. Brian moved to approve a claim for HVAC work in Memorial Hall in the amount of \$92,250.00, second by Darle, and passed. James McCleary, with Searce & Rudisel Architects of Warsaw, the project architect, recommended the payment, leaving an unpaid balance of \$16,750.00, \$10,250. of which is retainage funds. McCleary will draw revised plans that reflect changes made as the project progressed. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, has received a request for more information on the Government Vehicle Acquisition grant application, including who will be using the vehicles, and local advertising prospects. Tom thought the department(s) who would be using the vehicles should complete that information. A press release and marketing website were included in the packet. Chad Dilling, Plan Commissioner, told Commissioners he and custodian Ron Harris placed paneling over a broken window in Memorial Hall. It's a temporary fix while Commissioners wait for bids to replace all the 2nd and 3rd floor windows. Les will ask custodian Dick Smith to monitor the situation. Co. Assessor, Kelly Schenkel, told Commissioners she viewed the GIS system in Kosciusko Co. last week. Wabash Co. is the only one in the area that doesn't have a GIS program. She also reminded she needs internet capability for her office. Commissioners discussed having one dedicated line for courthouse offices to share. They approved Kelly's request to purchase envelopes for her office from budgeted funds.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry says CR 1400 N between CR 200 W and 300 W will close this morning to replace Pleasant Township # 10 structure. Hank's Construction is doing the work, and should be done by Thursday. He has received a check from Cincinnati Insurance for lightning damage during July storms in the amount of \$3,271.50. Larry gave information to Sheriff Striker regarding trains blocking crossings. A Class "C" infraction when it exceeds 10 minutes, the Sheriff should enlist the help of the Prosecutor and Co. Attorney. If the Sheriff documents the incidents and forwards it to INDOT, they will work with legislators to revise the law. Any employee on a train may be cited for non-compliance. Larry asked Commissioner support for a request for additional funds for engineering services and permanent repair of the retaining wall on Old Rd. 15 S at Treaty Creek in the amount of \$36,000.00. Also he will need an additional \$8,000. for temporary repairs. Brian moved support of the additional appropriation requests, second by Darle, and passed. Larry says all utilities except NIPSCO have relocated at the site, and NIPSCO intends to stay put. Sheriff Striker asked Larry to check an area on Bailey Road, south of CR 400 S, where there have been several accidents. He thought maybe a guardrail could be installed, or trees removed. Larry will check it. Steve Jones with United Consulting Engineers, reports his firm has worked three options for repairs to the bridge over the railroad on Old 24 W. Currently a two span unit, one steel and one concrete, plans include replacement of a pier. A clearance issue is the responsibility of the railroad, as they elevated the bed at some point. With Commissioner approval they will proceed with getting state approval. Construction could likely begin in early 2005. They have also done an engineers report on Br. 505 on Ferry Street in Wabash. Since the bridge is historical, special measures are required. It would be a repair rather than a replacement, running about \$740,000.00. With Commissioner approval they will submit the plans for FA-3 funds.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: Wabash Co. is one of 55 northern counties eligible to apply for grant funds to upgrade radio equipment to the IN State Police standards of an 800 megahertz frequency. The application deadline is 12/03, and Striker asked Commissioner support of applying for up to \$419,000. in grant funds for phase I of a 3 phase conversion. Brian moved support of the application, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners signed the application, and Sheriff Striker will complete it with the assistance of EMA director, Bob Brown. Striker says there are 82 in jail this morning. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Lester D. Templin, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Brian K. Hauptert

ATTEST:_____

Carol Stefanatos, Auditor