

January 12, 2004

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 1/5 meeting were approved with a correction, moved by Lester Templin, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. The comment about a field entrance on CR 550 W, needs a comma added after rains hard. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register, and reviewed the Benicomp insurance report for December. Commissioners reviewed a request from Kevin Prosser, owner of Carriage House Estates, Prosser, and Salomonie Mobile Home Parks, to notify him of any planned development in the area of his facilities. They have established Wellhead Protection plans for the businesses, and need to know if development would encroach their protection areas. Commissioners directed the letters to the Plan Commission for monitoring. Brian reported Ernest Passwater has agreed to extend his appointment to the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission thru 2004. Les moved approval to the re-appointment, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners directed the Auditor to notify Kone, Inc. they wish to terminate the maintenance contract for the courthouse elevator effective the renewal date of 4/14/04. Written notice of intent to terminate the 5 year contract must be submitted 90 days prior to the anniversary date. Commissioners will seek new proposals. Commissioners signed Ordinance 2004-I, presented by their attorney, Tom Mattern. As approved last week, it prohibits commercial vehicles from traveling on CR 750 W from the intersection with St. Rd. 124 to the intersection with CR 700 S, and on CR 700 S from the intersection with CR 750 W to the intersection with CR 550 W. Commissioners told Co. Clerk, Lori Draper, to get cost estimates for a postage machine for the Judicial complex. She would ask Co. Council for additional funds to cover the expense. Lori reports counties that have signed contracts to add machines for handicapped voters are getting federal funds, and Wabash Co. could get the same benefits if a purchase contract is signed. Commissioners signed 5311 Transportation grant reports submitted by Beverly Ferry, director of Wabash Co. Council on Aging. She reports if has been a good year for the program, with records set 5 of the last 6 months. Co. Health Nurse, Jane Skeans, reports she needs a plan for the second round of Homeland Security grants. She will look into the cost of a generator, as protecting her medicines is a priority. Commissioners question the need, and storage issues, but Highway supervisor, Larry Rice, says it could be stored at his facility, and he could use it on occasion. He had been planning to suggest he buy one. Jane will get cost figures. Darle received an offer to buy and remove the old safe, formerly used by the Treasurer. Commissioners feel they need to advertise the safe, since there has been interest in it in the past. A buyer would be responsible for removal and any damages incurred.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept. Larry says a Verizon request to bury cable on Old Rd. 15 S boring under CR 100 S at the intersection with CR 475 W, looks okay. Commissioners signed the request. He has received partial reimbursement from FEMA for storm damage in July 2003, in the amount of \$20,102. John Gwillin in Lagro Township, isn't pleased with work done by the highway department to relieve a water problem. The highway crews did some ditching after Gwillin presented a petition signed by himself and the only other property owner involved. Les and Larry will talk with Gwillin.

Sheriff, Leroy Striker: Upon the request of Sheriff Striker, Les moved support of a request to appropriate funds into the E-911 account for wages and benefits for two dispatchers and the 911 coordinator, second by Darle, and passed. The 911 board approved \$30,000. each for three county employees. The Sheriff reports there are 89 in jail this morning. The Community Corrections board will hear recommendations from Moake Park Group representative, Molly O'Conner, for renovating the jail basement. The state makes the final call on spending, as they provide the funds. Striker says other locations have been considered and eliminated, including: the courthouse, a portion of the Bowen Center, a section of the Wabash Inn, the Probation building and the former Miller's Merry Manor East. Les is concerned about the cost to the county of relocating Emergency Management (EMA), and Brian said Ms O'Conner didn't think relocating was necessary. Striker foresees growth for the Community Corrections program and the EMA, plus the need for additional storage space for EMA equipment not available at the jail. Striker says the grant will provide wages for 2 1/2 employees, not enough for full time coverage. With the program in the jail, he may use current employees to augment the staff. Sheriff Striker says there won't be funds available in the Community Corrections grant to relocate EMA. Sheriff Striker reports employee Barry Hicks is on sick leave, and his status will be reviewed in March. For now, his vehicle has been returned to the fleet. Hicks' doctor said his condition enabled him to work part-time, and the Sheriff's association attorney said statutes don't allow for a deputy to have part-time status.

Bob Brown, Emergency Management director: Bob presented his quarterly report for Commissioner review and approval. 1497 hours of service were logged in the quarter, with 7055 hours for 2003. All but 1958 hours were volunteer. These figures are up from 2002. Brian signed the quarterly Statement of Work report. Bob says Wabash Co. is eligible for an additional \$1288. thru the CERT grant program. Funds may be used for specified items. He has been approved for Part 1 of the Domestic Preparedness grant thru Homeland Security The \$25,939. may be used for pre-approved equipment purchases. Les moved support of making the purchases, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners approved use of his county vehicle to attend a bio terrorism table top meeting in Lafayette this week. Bob is working on an monetary agreement with the City of Wabash to use the Reverse 911 system to notify property owners along creeks and rivers when there is a potential for wastewater discharge into the waterways. A new law requires the notification. Bob feels the best place for his department to relocate is the new Solid Waste District building. He figures rent and utilities for a building owned by Brown Trucking would run about \$12,000 a year. Bob says he hasn't found any grant opportunities that could be used to relocate. Bob suggested a meeting between Council, Commissioners, the Sheriff and himself might be worthwhile. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST:

Carol Stefanatos, Auditor