

March 15, 2004

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 3/8 meeting were approved with a correction, moved by Lester Templin, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. A request for guardrail was on CR 150 W rather than CR 350 W. Commissioners reviewed the Judicial Center/Jail custodian hours. They noted Hasler Mailing systems will increase the postage meter rental fee by 6% effective 7/1/04. The current rate is \$50.00 per quarter. Les moved to release \$41,700. (1/2 the quote) to Crystal Glass to buy materials to repair and replace Memorial Hall windows, thus getting the job started, second by Darle, and passed. They took a new quote from Crystal Glass under advisement. It is for replacing with curved glass, as the windows now have, for an additional \$10,000.00. Mike Bear with Amco Elevator Service presented a proposal for maintenance of the courthouse elevator. He suggested a 5 year automatically renewable contract, with each party able to terminate within 90 days of a 5 year renewal. The county would pay \$167.00 per month for systematic maintenance, parts and repairs, plus state required monthly fire service maintenance and annual tests. Commissioners also reviewed a proposal sent by Abell Elevator Service, which offers a one year automatically renewable contract at \$131.00 per month. Either party may terminate within 90 days of renewal. Abell will provide systematic maintenance, parts and required annual testing. Commissioners took both quotes under advisement. George Winterrowd, representing Rose Hill Subdivision, a proposed subdivision on George Bitzer property, received agreement from Commissioners to accept and maintain a road, as long as it meets county specifications. Larry says the road plans look good but he recommended eliminating an island in the cul-de-sac. He did ask Winterrowd to use one drain pipe along the road, rather than two smaller pipes as proposed. One pipe is less likely to get plugged, and it needs at least 12 inches of ground cover. Plan Commission director, Chad Dilling, reports Phil Magner, with the Hoosier Heartland Corridor, says his group is opposed to erosion of the limited access status the U.S. 24 corridor now enjoys.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry has placed stone at the Tom Chekouras residence for a bus turn-around, and signs warning of a bus turn-around on the east and west sides of the Dan Lloyd property, as requested by the Metropolitan School District. He says this winter has been the hardest year for road damage since he's been with the department. He has crews filling holes as weather permits, but they are about out of materials. Darle said there are some bad areas in and around Urbana. Commissioners signed the road cut request for Dale Farms they approved last week on CR 900 N, 3920 ft. west of CR 200 W. Larry says his crew replaced a 30 inch culvert with a 30 inch culvert along CR 600 W near CR 1000 N, before they did chip and seal in 1997. His only other note on the job, was that Terry Hudson complained about his fence being damaged. Larry shared a comparison of truck and equipment bids received last week. He says the cheapest combination, that meets specifications is: Erik's Chevrolet, Kokomo, for the single axle cab and chassis, (\$49,850.) and W.A. Jones of Columbia City for the equipment (\$25,973.); and Denney Motor Sales, Wabash for the tandem cab and chassis (\$55,670.) and Deeds Equipment, Lawrence, IN for equipment (\$27,364.). All are GM products. Les moved approval of Larry's recommendations for both trucks and equipment, second by Darle, and passed. Larry says two requests from SPRINT to bury cable look okay. One is on CR 1000 S, west from Old Rd. 15 for 1100 feet, and the second is on Delaware Lane in Somerset, north from Old Slocum Trail for 1800 feet. Commissioners signed both requests. Waterborne Environmental, doing a study for the Environmental Protection Agency, has asked permission to place monitoring equipment on Co. Bridge # 50, on CR 1100 N, just west of Singer Road. Testing will run from April 2004 to December 2006. Les moved approval to proceed, under the condition that the county receive a copy of the final report, second by Darle, and passed. Brian signed the request. Butler, Fairman & Seufert Engineering (BF&S) representatives including President, John Brand, Toby Steffan and John Speidel, Jr. presented a proposed agreement for Right-of-Way (R/W) Management Services on Phase II of the Old Road 15 S project. Fees totaling \$91,000.00 include management, title work, appraisals and buyer costs. The amount doesn't include payment to property owners for land. Les moved approval to sign the contract, second by Darle, and passed. R/W engineering is within two weeks of being complete, and the project will be done in 2005, as long as eminent domain issues don't delay progress, according to BF& S.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: There are 98 in jail this morning. Leroy met with a representative of Schenkel/ Shultz Architects last week, along with Paul Downing with the Community Corrections program. Both agree the jail is the only logical location for the program. Leroy says the Schenkel Shultz suggestion to move the investigation area, can't be done. He can't proceed until Commissioners decide where Emergency Management will be housed. Brian said they had to review the Schenkel/Shultz plan before they decide. Hopefully they will have an answer before April 1st. Leroy says his department has issued citations against the railroad for blocking crossings, and he keeps in touch with a railroad representative in Logansport. He says various parties' explanations for stopped trains don't always match. He hopes it will be resolved eventually.

Employee Health Coverage: Crystal Michael and Allen Miracle, representing Benicomp, went over various proposals, and their recommendation would be to stay with American United Life (AUL), increase the county liability per covered individual from \$20,000. to \$25,000 and stay with the additional annual liability of \$25,000. in aggregate claims, before the carrier assumes responsibility. This amounts to a 13% increase, 1/4 of which would fall to employees, about \$12.34 per month for single coverage and \$26.92 for a family. They also recommend switching provider networks to a choice of Signature Care Plus or Lutheran Preferred. Signature Care offers deeper discounts than our current provider, Sagamore. The counties' self funded account has a balance of \$460,480.16, and in the last twelve months income exceeded disbursements by \$108,795.34. Les moved to renew with AUL at the increased specific of \$25,000./\$25,000.00, second by Darle based on the current balance of the self funded account, and passed. Crystal & Allen will educate employees on the proposed providers, and allow the month of April for a possible transition. Commissioners felt they couldn't wait for a potential quote from another vendor for this year, since April 1st is the renewal date. They will consider preparing for a possible switch to a "wellness" plan that rewards employees for good health practices, thus reducing their deductible. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST:

Carol Stefanatos, Auditor