

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 3/15 meeting were approved as written, moved by Lester Templin, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket and the Payroll Check Register. They reviewed the Clerk and Treasurer Reports for February, and the Weights and Measures monthly report. Doug Kroft, Crystal Glass owner, discussed glass options for Memorial Hall windows. Replacing with curved glass will be much more expensive, and flat glass would match the Judicial Center windows. Curved glass in the small windows around the north entry would run between \$800. and \$1,000. each. Les moved to place curved glass above the north entry and flat glass in the remaining windows, second by Darle, and passed. Kroft will get a definite figure for the curved glass replacements. Both parties signed a revised quote of \$83,400. for the entire job. Sheriff, Leroy Striker, reports there are 94 in jail this morning. He presented a new 3 year contract with Verizon for 911 services. Les moved to sign the contract, second by Darle, and passed. He also presented Phase II of the grant application for 800 megahertz radio equipment. Brian signed both documents. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, has gathered information about the Leah Jackson estate that bequeathed funds for maintenance of the County Farm home, back in 1964. With interest, it now exceeds \$51,000.00. He will ask the judge to allow moving it to a similar fund where it may be used. Commissioners first three choices are: (1) Cumulative Capital Development fund, (2) the courthouse maintenance line item in their budget, or (3) County General fund. Tom will make an attempt to contact heirs, most likely thru legal notices in the newspaper. Emergency Management director, Bob Brown, has located a suitable trailer for storing and hauling equipment, at Zahm's Trailers in Huntington. Part one of his Homeland Security grant designated \$8500. for this purchase, and he can get it for \$8100. to \$8200.00, if it is still available. This would be his choice versus an earlier quote from the Elkhart area. It better fits the planned use of housing a small generator (9000 watt), decontamination equipment and a command post area. Les moved approval to buy the Zahm trailer, second by Darle, and passed. The balance of the grant will come when Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) participants have completed their training. The group will be divided into 3 teams of 10, and Bob plans annual eight hour refresher courses. Steve Shultz with SEMA inspected the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) last week and was pleased with their set-up. Brian said Quality Electric personnel had checked the Judicial Center thoroughly, and feel the recurrent odor is from outside sources. The HVAC system incorporates outside air to meet air exchange standards. At 1:00 P.M., Brian and Les met with Mary Ellen Rudisel of Scarce & Rudisel Architects of Warsaw. Darle attended a drainage meeting in Miami County. She proposed a not to exceed fee of \$3,000., plus reimbursable expenses, to prepare preliminary drawings of a floor plan for the Probation department on Memorial Hall's 3rd floor. She promised substantial completion of the plans within 6 weeks. If she were to oversee the renovation, she would deduct this fee from her additional charges. Les moved to sign the contract, second by Brian, and passed. She also proposed a test hole for finding a solution to water problems in Memorial Hall's basement. She feels the water may come from a broken downspout underground. Commissioners didn't make a commitment today.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Larry presented a road cut request from Gary Carr and Kyle Merrick on CR 200 N. They plan to run a 10 inch tile 1/4 mile to Bachelor Creek. The county would do the work at \$10.00 per running foot (\$400.), and Larry thinks the plans look okay. Les moved approval to proceed, second by Darle, and passed. Larry has talked with Mr. Beckel about mud on CR 800 S and CR 200 E around his dairy farm. Beckel will get the mud cleared. Larry also gave him an estimate to repair roads damaged in connection with construction, totaling \$28,000.00. Larry thinks when he does the repairs he should add asphalt, and fix the road to last. Larry says the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) has changed their plans for two waterways on CR 800 N and CR 200 E. All attending agreed to make an open ditch, and when completed, the highway dept. will have to place a structure at the intersection and enlarge the pipe at CR 180 E, or place a structure. He will check the area with DebCo on Thursday to get their suggestion Larry will be meeting with the Corp of Engineers and Miami Co. representatives about roads in the dam area. He will check a report of considerable mud on the road at CR 900 N and CR 700 W. He says if David Metz's request for a driveway on Old Rd. 15 S at CR 350 S is approved, it will mean changes in construction plans for Old 15, and may require guardrail in the area for safety. Commissioner consensus is they don't want increased expense for the county. Metz would likely have to cover any extra costs. Larry says Patriot has tested soils around the former underground tanks. Results aren't back, but they think it will be okay, no further steps needed. He did learn water is 18 feet below the surface.

Highway Distributor truck. At 10:00 A.M., Les moved to close bids, second by Darle, and passed. There was only one bid from Southeastern Equipment of Ft. Wayne. Their quote for a complete unit is \$124,650.00, less trade-in of \$10,000.00, making the cost \$114,650 Les moved to take the bid under advisement while Larry and Tom reviewed it, second by Darle, and passed. Later, Larry recommended accepting the bid, and Tom reported the bond and specifications were in order. Larry did feel the trade-in should have been higher. Les moved to proceed with a purchase, second by Darle, and passed.

Rose Hill Subdivision: Phil Magner, Hoosier Heartland Corridor board member, asked Commissioners to consider preserving field entrances along U.S. 24 in Wabash County, thus eliminating the potential of additional access roads off the highway. Magner hopes our highway doesn't end up like U.S. 31 south of Kokomo. His group recommends the local authority takes steps to prevent that. Chad Dilling, Plan Commissioner, says an amendment to the subdivision ordinance would be the likely action. He thinks there are seven field entrances on Rd.24 across the county. The state allows a maximum of five lots to access the highway thru a field entrance. Les questioned whether local authority may supersede state requirements. Chad reminded that Mr. Bitzer has substantial money tied up in preparations. Original plans were for access off CR 750 E, but that requires 1/4 mile more road, an increased expense. Darle wondered if Bitzer was sufficiently compensated by the state when his farm was split up for the highway. He also says Commissioners agreed last week to accept maintenance on a road in the subdivision if it met county specifications. Les and Brian don't feel that's a commitment to approving the subdivision. Brian asked Chad to request the project be put on hold, while Commissioners gather information and check precedent. He also asked for Phil's help. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

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Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

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Darle V. Dawes

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Lester D. Templin

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor