

May 24, 2004

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order about 10:00 A.M. after the Council meeting had adjourned. With all members present, Lester Templin moved to approve the 5/17 minutes as written, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Accounts Payable Voucher Register for the Primary Election. They reviewed the Weights & Measures monthly report and the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours. They learned from Jerry Banks with Cinergy/PSI, a rate increase averaging 8.36% has been approved, effective immediately. Banks shared the information to help with 2005 budgeting. Speicherville residents, still at odds over property lines, were again advised by Commissioners their likely resolution will come from the courts. Darle visited the area on Saturday, and thought the area looked cared for and in order. The Lawsons are moving the fence to their property line based on their survey. According to the Price survey, they're off 5 feet. Price thinks the fence should stay down until the alley location is determined. Owners could petition to close the unimproved alley, but Darle feels it should be left alone, so it's available for future utility needs. County Clerk, Lori Draper, reports the voting place will be moved from the Wabash Middle School to the High School gym at the request of school officials. The gym served as the polling site for years, but it isn't handicapped accessible. Lori will look for a resolution. She asked Commissioners to sign an updated contract to buy voting machines for the handicapped, as mandated by the federal government. Co. Council had tabled her funding request earlier today, but a signed contract is the first step in the process. Les moved approval to sign the contract, with the understanding Co. Council must set aside funds before the process moves forward, second by Darle, and passed. Darle said the Urbana Lions Club has been waiting and waiting for a state permit to proceed with making their building handicapped accessible. It's used as a polling place. Commissioners signed Ordinance II, 2004, approved last week. It places a 5 ton weight limit and a 20 mile per hour speed limit on Bridge # 38 on CR 400 N, 1/2 mile east of CR 650 E.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: He has talked with Butler, Fairman & Seufert (BF&S) representatives about Dan Rapp concerns on the Old 15 S project, and they are researching possible options. BF&S has two employees working on a hill issue, too. INDOT has approved bridge plans for Phase II between St. Rd. 124 and CR 1000 S, so that project may proceed with a little effort from BF&S. He reports both Bridge # 175 at Richvalley and Br. # 505 on Ferry Street have been submitted for federal aid by BF&S Engineers and United Consulting Engineers, respectively. Larry said he's concerned about water over the road on CR 300 W, south of Pike Street, where a culvert is planned in conjunction with a housing project. It's within the City of Wabash zoning area, but he feels the county should have been notified about the hearing, where plans to progress were approved. Penny Barnett, 3161 S Bailey Road has requested a "Slow Children" sign be posted. Larry doesn't think it's warranted for the same reasons he didn't think a "blind drive" sign was needed. There's posted speed limits and the pine tree obstructing the view belongs to Barnett. Larry presented a letter with his objections to plans for the T. E. Bolly open drain, primarily in Miami County. Darle and Les feel the potential benefits to adjacent property owners don't measure up with the costs to be assessed. The proposed drain will stop at CR 700 N, 1/2 mile short of the river. Les moved for Commissioners to sign Larry's objection letter, too, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners approved Larry's Highway Dept. Annual Report, as required by the State Board of Accounts.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: Leroy reports there are 94 in jail this morning. A primary recommendation of the Local Assessment report on the jail, is that 3 jail officers be on duty at all times. The Community Corrections Board voted to proceed with the grant application.

Tattoo and Body Piercing Ordinance: Environmental Health Specialist, Jennifer Swango, presented the proposal, already approved by the Board of Health. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern, had reviewed the proposal and indicated the intent is clear and he finds no violations. Mattern sent a copy to the Prosecutor for him to review. Jennifer said the penalties and fees were set by the Health Board, and though significant, they're not near the high end state wide. The potential for the spread of disease from unclean equipment, and allergic reaction to certain dyes is a concern. Les moved to adopt a revised Ordinance that clears some legalize in the document, second by Darle, and passed. It will go on record as Ordinance III, 2004

Old Rd. 15 S project: John Speidel, Jr. with BF&S proposed a supplemental agreement for survey and design services on the project. It would be between the county and BF&S, and precipitated by the length of the project which started at 4.5 million and is now at 7.2 million. BF&S has incurred additional costs, and would ask the state to approve an additional \$203,000, for which the county would cover 20%. BF&S doesn't anticipate the state would approve the full amount requested. The first step is Commissioner support of a letter to INDOT requesting the supplemental agreement. Les moved support of the request letter, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners signed the letter.

Dept. of Natural Resources recreational road project on CR 950 S and CR 300 W: James Hamilton with BF&S reports one of the right-of-way acquisition processes has been compromised, and he recommends a new repair estimate be sought from a disinterested third party. He'll ask a company that works with state projects for source recommendations. Ultimately, Commissioners would have approval rights on a new settlement proposal. Les felt the county could recoup some losses on the sale of scrap materials. Jim will proceed with getting a new estimate. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor