

July 6, 2004

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 6/28 meeting were approved as written, moved by Lester Templin, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Accounts Payable Voucher Register, and reviewed the Jail/Judicial Center custodian hours, the Treasurer's May Report and the June Financial Statement. Commissioners signed the annual agreement between the county and the State Board of Animal Health for Bovine Brucellosis and Tuberculosis testing.

Memorial Hall 3rd Floor Renovation quotes: Darle moved to close bids at 9:05, second by Darle, and passed. Commissioners opened bids from: (1) MDM Construction, Roann with a base bid of \$244,935.93, plus five alternate bids totaling \$24,480.30; (2) Kellam, Inc., Wabash, with a base bid of \$141,295. and an option of 3% deducted from the final payment if the proposal is signed by 7/20; (3) D. T. Construction Services of Silver Lake, with a base bid of \$112,121.00, and alternate bids totaling \$8,358.00; (4) Hearn Construction, Kokomo, had a base bid of \$139,200.00 and alternate bids totaling \$5,852.00; (5) W. J. Carey Construction of So. Whitley, gave a base bid of \$129,800.00 and alternates totaling \$9,342.; (6) D & C Construction of So. Whitley, quoted a base bid of \$122,964.00, and alternate bids totaling \$7,015.00. Darle thanked all those who participated, and moved to take all bids under advisement, second by Les, and passed. Jim Jordan with Scearce and Rudisel Architects of Warsaw, will review and compare the bids, then report to the Commissioners. Commissioners signed the application for Construction Design Release on the project. It must go to the state for approval.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: His crews have 19 miles of chip and seal completed. He had four requests from Comcast (formerly Insight Communications) to bury cable. He thought all were okay. Commissioners signed the requests, and one copy will go to the Surveyor. Included are: (1) bore the road 2168 feet on CR 100 N between St. Rd. 13 and 380 E on 100 N; (2) diagonally, SE to NW, across the intersection of CR 300 N and CR 500 E; (3) bury for 1000 feet on CR 300 N, west from CR 500 E; (4) begin on CR 100 N at the address of 829 E, proceeding east for 390 feet, then north along CR 100 E to the address of 1142 N. Larry had an exit conference with James Hamilton of Butler, Fairman & Seufert Engineers, regarding the county wide bridge inspection. There are some concerns including: (1) new shingles on the Roann Covered bridge; (2) the No. Manchester Covered bridge needs the roof and floor rehabilitated or repaired; (3) start a program of painting steel beams on some bridges. The complete report will come soon. Larry says there is a new enhancement fund that might be available to rehab the Manchester Covered bridge.

Leroy Striker, Sheriff: The Sheriff reports there are 95 in jail this morning. Since Co. Council approved his plan to lease two cars using Commissary funds, he has learned the GM product can't be altered to fit his needs, so he will use a Ford product. He is still looking for the best deal. He noted jail officer, John Montague, has been called to active duty for a minimum of one year, and he plans to fill the void with part time employees. He offered labor help to the highway department for fair preparations, and Larry thanked him for the offer, but said they're about done.

Charles Smith, Chief of Police: Smith reports the E-911 committee met last week to discuss his request for funds to update radio equipment. The board offered \$24,954.43 to cover expenses involved with sending messages, as is the board's policy. Les said the 911 account balance was \$343,121.14 as of 6/7/04. Les moved support of passing the additional appropriation request to Co. Council, second by Darle, and passed. Les also moved to approve the revised agreement between the county and City of Wabash to place and maintain their radio equipment on the county tower at 1101 Manchester Avenue, second by Darle, and passed. Smith will ask the Board of Works to sign the agreement, and get a fully executed copy to the Co. Auditor.

Bob Brown, Emergency Management director: Bob presented his quarterly report for review and approval. Commissioners signed the report. He gave Commissioners a copy of the draft of the Wabash Co. Strategic Preparedness Plan that's due to the state by 8/1/04. He set four goals over the next three years, as part of the plan. The plan must be accepted in order to continue receiving state funding. He also must complete an All Hazard Plan for the county by November, and will work with Plan Commissioner, Chad Dilling, on that project. He'll get information to Chad about related seminars.

Dallas Duggan, Chief of Probation: Dallas presented a JABG grant application for Commissioner approval. Funds would be used for the Day Reporting Program. The maximum he can receive thru the grant this year is \$10,000.00, down from \$15,000. last year. He shared a statistical report on last year's program, with Commissioners. Dallas could likely continue the program without the grant this year, but not beyond that. Les moved support to apply for the grant, second by Darle, and passed. Brian signed the grant application.

Water problem near CR 350 S and 390 E: Property owners including: Roger Speicher, Larry & Terry Keiffer, Karl Bidwell, Don Slagel and Ken Bowman, discussed the need for a larger culvert at the site. Keiffer put a new drain on his property, resulting in drainage of larger amounts of water in a shorter time period. For the first time in 27 years at the location, Speicher had flooding at his home. Don Slagel doesn't feel he would suffer damage if water drained into his woods. He expects it would drain in 4 to 5 hours. Area property owners cleaned the ditch out two years ago, and Speicher has never seen water over the road. Larry Rice will assess needs at the area and gather costs for a larger drain, but says a larger culvert might not eliminate Speicher's problem.

Courthouse tractor/mower: Commissioners discussed options with Charles Smith of Wabash Portable Equipment for replacing the tractor that locked up. The 1999 model, purchased in November of 1998 was replaced with a used 2000 model in February of 2004. Both could accommodate the existing cab and snow blade. Smith recommends repairing the 1999 model as it is a better unit. He could replace the engine with a short block for \$550. to \$600.00 including labor, but not plugs, filters and oil. He says for \$1180.00 they could put a new engine in the mower. That would include a two year factory warranty, while the short block re-build would have a 60 day warranty. With the new engine Smith would transfer equipment for the accessories at no charge, deduct the \$300.00 trade-in amount, and is only charging \$30.00 for labor. Smith suggested Commissioners consider a maintenance contract, or his company offers an "early bird" tune-up for a discount. Darle moved to put a new engine in the 1999 model for about \$1180.00, second by Les. and passed. Smith said the county could continue to use the loaned mower while repairs proceed.

Urbana alley vacation request: Commissioners directed Tiffany Hauptert to the Plan Commission for procedures to vacate an alley. They set a public hearing for Aug. 2, 2004 at 11:00 A.M. Hauptert is concerned about the safety of her children, as cars access the alley from St. Rd. 13. With no further business, the meeting recessed.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor