

NOVEMBER 1, 2004

Commissioner Chairman, Brian Hauptert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Minutes of the 10/25 meeting were approved as written, moved by Lester Templin, second by Darle Dawes, and passed. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket, the Payroll Check Register and the Accounts Payable Voucher Register. Commissioners directed the Auditor to shut off utilities to the Probation building, once they're moved. Leroy Striker, Sheriff, reports there are 108 in jail this morning, and numbers have stayed consistently around 100 for some time. He continues to work with the judges and Probation to alleviate the problem. He anticipates approval of the Community Corrections grant will occur once the election is over. EMA director, Bob Brown, reports he has worked with Clerk, Lori Draper, and the Secretary of State to formulate an alternative plan for voting sites, in case of an emergency. Commissioners will look at a proposed agreement for locating EMA in Wabash City Hall. Brian will set a meeting with Mayor Vanlandingham to discuss that, along with an ambulance contract. Les moved approval for Brian to sign the Affidavit of Eligibility for Municipally Owned License Plates, second by Darle and passed. This form is necessary for licensing the new Health Dept. vehicle. Commissioners reviewed a proposed holiday schedule for 2005, but withheld a decision until next week. They talked with Sheriff Striker about his departments' policy, and agreed he had the authority to present revision proposals to the Commissioner's and Merit Board for approval. Commissioners agreed jail personnel, because of their 24/7 work schedule, should follow the Sheriff's policy.

Larry Rice, Co. Highway Dept.: Crews are waiting for Cinergy to move a pole on Wednesday, then they may finish guardrail & asphalt to complete the retaining wall project on Treaty Creek. Depending on weather, Phase III of Old Rd. 15 S is set for completion by November 15th, with only finish work to be done. Howard Newhouse, on CR 1150 S, has requested a road cut 7/10 of a mile west of CR 450 W. His son will do the work, and Larry thinks it's okay to approve. He advised Newhouse of the \$100.00 road maintenance charged by the county. Commissioners signed the request. Answering Darle's question, Larry hasn't had any requests for large stone. Larry would like to request a transfer of \$35,000.00 from the Carroll St. bridge account, since the final audit was completed in October of 2003. He needs a concrete box culvert on CR 500 S. Darle moved support of the transfer request, second by Les, and passed. Larry asked if there were plans to prepare for GASB-34 requirements, due in 2005. It's a federal program of accounting for fixed assets within the entity, including roads and bridges. It produces a net worth for bonding purposes. Attorney Mattern suggested using the cost to blacktop per mile, to get the value of paved roads, using the same formula for gravel roads. Sheriff Striker said the cost of Old 15 S could give a value to construct a road.

Roann Annexation: Steve Johnson, President of the Roann Town Board, and board attorney David Magley, report all requirements have been met, and no remonstrances have been received regarding annexation plans. All affected parties received notices by certified mail. The next step is Commissioner and Plan Commission approval. Water and sewer lines reach all but two of the properties involved in the plans. One of those two, has a new septic system which they may use as long as it functions properly, but must hook to city utilities when it fails. While annexation would lower utility rates and increase services such as snow removal and street lighting, owners understand tax rates will increase Magley reported. Johnson says the town has cleared and maintained roads in the Wheatfield area for some time. Darle knows of one party who is opposed, but won't shoulder legal costs alone to fight annexation. Brian said he initially opposed the plan but sees no problem with proceeding, if there isn't strong opposition. Larry Rice assured Les that plans wouldn't adversely affect his department, and verified that Roann has been maintaining the Wheatfield area. Les moved Commissioner support to proceed, second by Brian, and passed with Darle voting nay. With no further business they recessed.

Brian K. Hauptert, Chairman

Darle V. Dawes

Lester D. Templin

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor