

FULTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

February 3, 2003, 9:05 A.M., E.S.T., Assembly Room of the Fulton County Office Building,

Meeting Called To Order:

President Richard A. Powell called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., E.S.T. Commissioners present were Richard A. Powell, Roger D. Rose and Leslie R. Walters; also, County Attorney Greg Heller and County Auditor Denise J. Bonnell.

Rich asked, at this time, we observe a "Moment of Silence" in honor of those involved in the "Space Ship Columbia" tragedy, that has affected our entire nation.

Highway Department:

Superintendent Scott Tilden reported a good format at the County Bridge Conference that he attended for two days.

Scott presented **Permit #03-24**, United Telephone Company of Indiana (Sprint). Scott read and explained the permit, stating he has no problems with this permit. Scott presented **Permit #12-80**, Howe Excavating, Inc. Scott read and explained the permit, stating he has no problems with this permit. Roger Rose made a motion to approve Permit #03-24 and Permit #12-80. Leslie Walters seconded this motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Scott gave a summary of the Bridge Conference. He said it was two full days with a lot of maintenance items, as well as, a lot of funding, discussed. It was a very good conference and well attended both days. Scott answered questions, stating our County is in good shape, which he explained.

Highway Annual Report:

Scott asked the Board if they had reviewed his Year End Report? He stated comparing 2002 to 2001 on the Motor Vehicle Highway Gas Tax that we receive from the State. We received \$42,000.00 less in 2002, which he stated has to do with the economy of the State. On Local Roads & Streets we received \$139,000.00 less in 2002, except for the Host Fees of \$120,000.00 that you add back into, making it \$19,000.00 less in 2002. Scott continued to explain his report to the Board and answered their questions. Roger Rose made a motion to approve the Annual Operational Report for the County Highway as submitted by the Superintendent Scott Tilden. Leslie Walters seconded this motion. Motion passed 3-0. The Board signed this report.

Sheriff's Department:

Sheriff Roy Calvert said he had another company that would give him a bid on the plumbing and he should receive that in a couple days.

Roy informed the Board that the Judge says he needs another emergency line from the Court to the Sheriff's Office. Roy called this a panic line. Roy said it had been proposed

a year ago and Roy explained this; however, Roy does not feel it is necessary and in talking with the Prosecutor he does not feel it is necessary. Roy continued to explain this to the Board and the costs involved. Roy said he is just passing on information to the Board. The Board and Roy discussed this and Roger stated the Board's feeling is that we should have the minimal system. Roy felt that 911 would well cover that and possibly better than proposed. Roy also felt this should be discussed with the Board, Prosecutor, Judges and Sheriff; also, 911 altogether. This discussion continued and Roy stated he is not in favor of a panic button as such; the cost is higher than the value. Also, Roy wanted it known that the Panic Button as suggested would interfere with the frequency of the radios when used and that would interrupt all other communications that were going on at that time on the radio, whether it be Sheriff or E911. This is not an acceptable to himself or E911. The Board said they would investigate this further.

Building Ordinance:

Inspector, Gary Madlem was present with Sue Fair for an update on the cost and time needed to complete the work on her property. Sue stated she had contacted eight people for this information and received three responses. Rich asked Sue about her timetable and she replied this summer and explained the reason it is too cold at this time. Gary said, after estimates are obtained then a time can be set as to the completion of the work. This was agreeable with the Board.

Emergency Management:

Director Susan Griffith informed the Board, she had an Additional Appropriation Request in the amount of \$7,500.00 for the purchase of a twenty (20') trailer, including hitch & brake & supplies for the trailer. She informed the Board this is a used trailer and explained all that is included. Rich asked the Auditor if there was money available. This was discussed. The consensus of the Board was in agreement to approve the Appropriation Request, as the trailer is needed.

Sue mentioned the meetings (at Fort Wayne) that are coming up. She said anyone can attend and informed the Board as to what will be discussed; also, she felt the Commissioners would become better informed on the duties of this Board if they attended the meetings.

Maintenance:

Joe Morrow reported on the information signs for the Court House. Joe said the architects, Schmidt & Associates, designed the signs; also, the sign company made them as they were told. However, the signs were designed and ordered wrong and the architects will not pay to have correct signs made. Joe stated that is why they have not been received; as they were never reordered, and Joe proceeded to explain.

Joe told the Board that the people who sold the chairs had moved. They were shut down for thirty days for moving. Joe said he finally got in touch with them and should be receiving the parts next week. Joe said he now knows who to talk with.

Joe said he had checked the cost of having the chairs in the hallway reupholstered. He presented a swatch of the material and said the cost of upholstering was fifty (\$50.00) dollars per chair. Joe said there is a total of fifteen chairs. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Joe said he has not gotten any more information on the door closures, at this time.

HERCEG:

Kenneth P. Herceg, P.E., L.S. gave the Board a presentation of the services his company has to offer, and left a brochure. They are located in South Bend, IN. Following his presentation he said he would be keeping in touch.

The Board recessed for a short time.

Peta Boa Appointment:

Rich said he had talked with Sandy and she will get back with them as to the guidelines for this appointment. She is still not certain that the Commissioners make this appointment; her thought is the Council makes the appointment. Rich said he asked her to find out the correct procedure and report back.

Plan Commission Appointment:

Roger said he is still looking for this appointment. The Board said there is no representation on this Board from the East part of the County. Rich said this appointment would be on the Agenda for the next Board Meeting.

Arrow Head Country Resource Conservation and Development:

Randy Moore gave an update on this organization. He told of their involvement with the schools. He stated they worked with the Town of Kewanna, planting trees. They obtained two grants and he explained these. He stated they held a Grant Writing Workshop last week and explained the purpose for this. He said they had a good response to this.

Randy said that Tom Smith, Vice President is doing a good job. There was a discussion on the different ideas presented to the Council. The Board thanked Tom Smith for the work he is doing and Randy Moore for his update.

The Annual Report of Activities and Financial Report for the Arrow Head Country RC&D Area, Inc. was filed with the Board of Commissioners.

Fulton County Transpo:

Director, Terry Moore presented the Board with the report for the last quarter of 2002. She reviewed the report for the Board. She explained the Financial Status Report. Terry said this year Fulton County qualified for the State Fund and will receive approximately eleven thousand (\$11,000.00) dollars from the State, which will be in addition to the INDOT money. She said we have now become eligible for State Funding and we will continue to be from now on, having completed two years. Terry said we are reaching

more people and she will be applying for new vehicles in March, possibly two vehicles. She explained this regarding the funding. She answered questions from the Board and explained where her funds come from. She said they charge one dollar within the City Limits and two dollars within the County; and, she stated that is per destination. These charges are consistent with the surrounding Counties. Terry said as long as they could operate on the present fee, she prefers not to increase, for the reason there are people who could not pay. She explained the vehicles in use and what they are used for at the present time. She stated the requirements for the drivers, stating they all have to be trained. She said there is a real need for this service. Terry said they now offer passes, whereby you receive twelve trips for ten dollars, a small savings. This has been well received.

Commissioners' Minutes:

The minutes for January 21, 2003 were reviewed. It was the consensus of the Board, to have noted the ending time of the meeting, at the end of the minutes; also, a correction was made. Roger Rose made a motion to accept the minutes of January 21, 2003 as corrected. Leslie Walters seconded this motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Funding Agreements:

The Auditor presented Funding Agreements for the following: 4-H Fair Board-\$5,000.00, Arrow Head Country Resources-\$500.00, Marshall-Starke Development Center-\$30,000.00, and Council on Aging-\$7,000.00. Auditor Denise stated these are standard Annual Funding Agreements.

Appropriation Request:

Emergency Planning:

#0101-1160-240	Emergency Planning	\$ 7,500.00
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Fulton County Council:

Fulton County Host Fee Agreement:

#1136-000-3000-41	Building & Other Insurance	\$175,000.00
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Transfer Request:

Highway Department:

Cum Cap:

From: #0790-196-3000-18	Bridge #118	\$ 1,779.87
To: #0790-196-3000-93	Bridge #93-Nyona Lake	\$ 1,779.87

Auditor:

From: #0101-002-3000-21	Postage	\$ 6.26
To: #0101-002-3000-90	Dues	\$ 6.26

All of the above Requests were reviewed and signed.

Claims and Payroll:

These were reviewed and signed for payment.

Monthly Report:

Fulton County Animal Control Officer, Gene Baker presented his monthly report. This was reviewed and discussed. Following this discussion Rich asked Attorney Greg Heller what is the County's responsibility regarding animals' dead/alive. Attorney Heller will check this out.

Other Business:

Roger reported he had received a call regarding the Rails & Trails situation in the county. This was discussed and the question is what role do the Commissioners have in this and what, if any, is the legal responsibility of the Commissioners? Attorney Heller will research this.

There was a discussion as to a Commissioner being in the building for one day out of each week, for the entire day. The consensus of the Board was it's a good idea and decided on Wednesday as the day. This will go in rotation, Rich, Roger and Leslie with the fourth to be announced; also, it will start Wednesday, February 5, 2003.

This concluded all the business transacted and a motion to recess was made by Roger Rose. Leslie Walters seconded this motion. Motion passed 3-0. Meeting recessed at 11:55 a.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Richard A. Powell, President

Roger D. Rose, Vice-President

Leslie F. Walters, Member

ATTEST: _____
Denise J. Bonnell, County Auditor