

**COMMISSIONERS MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 24, 1997**

THE COMMISSIONERS MET IN THE CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CITY MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 301 SOUTH BRANSON STREET, MARION, INDIANA 46952 ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1997.

IN ATTENDANCE WERE COMMISSIONERS DICK PUCKETT AND WALT WOOD.

CURTIS SIMPKINS WAS ASKED BY THE COMMISSIONERS TO MEET CONCERNING HIRING AN EMPLOYEE THAT THE GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVED FOR HIS OFFICE. MR. SIMPKINS STATED HE HAD ASKED BARB DITSLER. HE STATED THAT MRS. DITSLER HAS HELPED HIM IN THE PAST. HE STATED HE WAS MEETING WITH THE COMMISSIONERS ON WHAT PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW IN HIRING HER.

DICK PUCKETT STATED THAT THEY HAVE NO CONTROL OVER ELECTED OFFICIALS AND WHO THEY HIRE, BUT DO HAVE OVER APPOINTED POSITIONS. HE STATED THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN WHO HE WAS CONSIDERING.

MR. SIMPKINS STATED THAT AFTER COUNCIL BUDGET HEARINGS, WHERE HE WAS ALLOWED THIS POSITION, HE LEFT ON VACATION. THE RUMORS BEGAN AT THIS TIME, BEFORE HE HAD EVEN ASKED MRS. DITLSER.

DICK PUCKETT ASKED IF, AFTER THE SECRETARY CATCHES UP WITH PAST WORK, WOULD THERE BE ENOUGH WORK TO KEEP HER BUSY FULL TIME.

MR. SIMPKINS STATED YES, THAT HE HAD NEEDED A SECRETARY FOR YEARS.

DICK PUCKETT STATED THAT SINCE SHE WAS ALREADY A COUNTY EMPLOYEE, COULD SHE POSSIBLY BE USED IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY IN OTHER AREAS AS SHE HAS DONE IN THE PAST.

MR. SIMPKINS STATED THAT HE WAS AGAINST THIS, BECAUSE HE HAS ENOUGH WORK TO KEEP A FULL TIME EMPLOYEE BUSY.

WALT WOOD STATED HE WOULD LIKE MRS. DITSLER TO COME IN FOR A MEETING WITH THEM TO TALK ABOUT THIS JOB AND THE ONE SHE HOLDS CURRENTLY. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE COMMISSIONERS WANT HER TO HAVE THE JOB SHE WANTS.

AT THIS TIME THE COMMISSIONERS SIGNED MINUTES OF THE 9-8-97 AND 9-15-97 MEETING AND NOTES FROM THE 9-15-97 MEETING.

JAY WALTERS SPOKE TO THE COMMISSIONERS CONCERNING THE COUNTY COMPLEX MATCHING WITH THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT, THE LANDSCAPING AND ABOUT A NAME. HE STATED THAT COUNTY OFFICES WOULD SOON BE ORDERING STATIONARY AND WOULD HAVE TO RE-ORDER IF THE COMMISSIONERS AND COUNCIL APPROVE A STANDARD STATIONARY FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTY TO USE.

MR. WALTERS STATED THAT ROB DAWALT HAS FILED A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AGAINST THE COUNTY ASSESSOR, AUDITOR AND TREASURER PREVENTING THE COUNTY FROM SELLING HIS PROPERTY IN THE TAX SALE. HE STATES THAT THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN ASSESSED INCORRECTLY SINCE 1991. MR. WALTERS STATED THAT MR. DAWALT HAS NEVER FOLLOWED STATED REQUIRED PROCEDURES TO ADJUST HIS ASSESSMENT SUCH AS FILING A FORM 130 OR A FORM 133. HE STATED HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE COMMISSIONERS FIGHT THIS.

DAVID GLICKFIELD JOINED THE MEETING AT 9:25 AM.

MR. GLICKFIELD STATED THAT A HEARING CONCERNING THE TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND THAT THE JUDGE COULD MAKE A DECISION RIGHT THEN. HE INSTRUCTED MR. WALTERS TO EXPLAIN TO THE JUDGE EXACTLY WHAT HE HAD STATED HERE. MR. GLICKFIELD THEN CALLED SUPERIOR COURT 1 LEAVING A MESSAGE THAT THE AUDITOR, ASSESSOR AND TREASURER WOULD LIKE A HEARING CONCERNING THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE STATED GENE JOHNSON WOULD RETURN TO THIS OFFICE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1997 AND WOULD HAVE TO REPRESENT THE COUNTY.

MR. GLICKFIELD STATED THAT THE COMMISSIONERS SHOULD SEND A LETTER TO PROSPECTIVE ATTORNEYS ASKING THEM IF THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE COUNTY ATTORNEY POSITION. THE COMMISSIONERS WILL SEND A LETTER TO WARREN HAAS, HERB SPITZER AND CRAIG PERSINGER, AND SET A TIME TO MEET WITH THEM.

WALT WOOD SUGGESTED THE SCHOOLS BE INVOLVED IN NAMING THE NEW COUNTY COMPLEX, MAYBE BY CONTEST. DICK PUCKETT SUGGESTED THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES.

THE COMMISSIONERS AGREE TO SEND A LETTER TO PETE BECK, GARY TYLER AND KAREN LENTZ ASKING THEM IF THEY WOULD SERVE ON A COMMITTEE TO NAME THE COMPLEX AND PRODUCE A GRAPHIC FOR NEW STATIONARY.

JASON BEAMER SPOKE TO THE COMMISSIONERS CONCERNING A NEW COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT. THE COMMISSIONERS STATED THAT THEY COULD NOT SPEND ANY MORE MONEY BUT WOULD LIKE A NEW SYSTEM AND A FAX MACHINE. THEY ALSO STATED THIS SYSTEM MUST BE MOBILE.

MR. GLICKFIELD SPOKE ABOUT A LETTER HE RECEIVED FROM CPC AND THOMSON CONSUMER ELECTRONICS CONCERNING TAX RELIEF.

JAY WALTERS EXPLAINED THAT THE ASSESSORS OFFICE COULD LOWER ASSESSMENT POSSIBLY FROM 10 TO 15%, BUT WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT ENTITLES KEEPING THE RATES DOWN, THE PROBLEM COULD NOT BE RESOLVED.

THE MEETING WAS RECESSED AT 9:55 AM.