

August 25 and 26, 2004

County Council Chairman, Paul Sites, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. Leon Ridenour shared a prayer, and minutes of the 7/26 meeting were approved as written, moved by Joann Rauh, second by Bob Fuller, and passed.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE VIII-2004

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	AYE	NAY
COUNTY GENERAL				
Election				
441 Capital Outlay (handicap voter machines)	\$ 147,500.	\$ 0.	7	0
The cost of machines has gone down to \$135,000.00, so Commissioners need to sign a new contract, which will still indicate the contract is void if state funds aren't forthcoming. Clerk, Lori Draper, has been advised by state officials the county doesn't have to set aside funds in a special account any longer. The county should anticipate 100% reimbursement from the state. Paul Bergman moved to proceed with the purchase of voting machines, as mandated, second by Bob, and passed by all. The Auditor is to establish a separate account for this purchase, but county funds aren't to be dedicated to the account.				
County Commissioners				
174 Personal Services (Sheriff pension)	5,496.	5,496.	7	0
June 2004 Service of Civil Papers for Circuit and Superior Courts. Joann moved approval as requested, second by Bob, and passed.				
COUNTY HEALTH				
310 Other Services/Charges (attorney fees)	500.	500.	7	0
Requested for Health Board attorney for Tattoo Ordinance preparation. The attorney feels it's in excess of his board duties. Bob moved approval as requested, second by Ted Little, and passed.				
312 Other Services/Charges (mosquito repellent)	1,529.00	1,529.00	7	0
The product is available to the public, at no charge, to combat West Nile disease. The State Dept. of Health will reimburse the local entity for it's expenses. Joann moved approval as requested, second by Paul Bergman, and passed.				
342 Other Services/Charges (nurse liability coverage)	78.	78.	7	0
Liability coverage for second full time nurse. Bob moved approval as requested, second by Ted, and passed.				
LOCAL ROAD AND STREET				
5316 Other Services/Charges (underground tank)	2,000.	2,000.	7	0
The final cost for testing for contaminated soil where underground fuel tanks were removed. Tests were okay. Leon moved approval as requested, second by Bob, and passed.				
ELECTRONIC MONITORING				
441 Capital Outlay (phone system and cabling)	6,220.	6,220.	7	0
To buy a new telephone system for the Probation Department, when it relocates to the 3rd floor of Memorial Hall. Includes wiring for phone and computer systems. Ted moved approval, second by Bob, and passed.				
USER FEE-PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION				
391 Other Services/Charges (DSL service)	700.	700.	7	0
The Prosecutor's office currently has dial-up network service, and have been advised to upgrade to a DSL line. Requested amount covers a one time activation fee, a modem fee, and one year of service at \$40.00 per month. Prosecutor Hartley reminds these funds are generated by user fees. Paul Bergman moved approval, second by Bob, and passed.				
441 Capital Outlay (narcotics dog)	7,850.	7,850.	6	1
Buy a trained K-9 that will be maintained with Sheriff Commissary funds. The dog will be used for drug investigations, and come from the Vohne Liche Kennels in Denver, IN. Paul Bergman moved approval, second by Ted, and passed with Joann voting nay.				
HEALTH MAINTENANCE				
316 Other Services/Charges (Hepatitis B vaccine)	238.	238.	7	0
Pays for Hepatitis B vaccine, already administered and paid for by the recipient. Gary Nose moved approval as requested, second by Joann, and passed.				
CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT				
221 Supplies (internet access)	6,865.	6,865.	7	0
Costs to update computer cable in courthouse offices in preparation for internet access for courthouse departments. Three quotes were requested, only one was received. Paul Bergman thinks cable should be pulled upstairs in preparation for future office use up there. Council feels a master plan for the 2nd floor is needed. Bob moved approval as requested, second by Joann, and passed.				
441 Capital Outlay (Memorial Hall)	111,000.	111,000.	7	0
For renovating the top floor of Memorial Hall for the Probation Department. DT Construction of Silver Lake was awarded the contract at \$109,392.00. Joann moved approval as requested, second by Bob, and passed.				
442 Capital Outlay (lawn mower)	1180.	1180.	5	2
New engine for the 1999 Simplicity tractor used for mowing and snow removal. The old engine locked up after the wrong weight of oil was used. Bob suggests buying oil from the vendor who sold the tractor. Joann moved approval of the request, second by Bob, and passed with 5 ayes, while Ted and Paul Bergman abstained.				
HOMELAND SECURITY (HEALTH)				
183 Personal Services (seminar)	1,887.12	1,887.12	7	0
For attending a bioterrorism seminar in Louisville, KY. Jane Skeans, Jennifer Swango, Lori Foust, Dr. Gifford, Bob Brown and Jon McDonald will attend the November meeting. Paul Bergman moved approval, second by Leon, and passed.				
441 Capital Outlay (cell phones)	1,851.78	0.		
To be used for 5 Nextel cell phones and one year of service, the request was withdrawn. Nextel service in the Wabash area is limited, so they will look for better service.				
JUDICIAL CENTER BOND				
421 Capital Outlay (Memorial Hall HVAC)	16,750.	16,750.	7	0
Funds need appropriated from the Judicial Center construction loan for the final payment for HVAC work done by Quality Electric in Memorial Hall. Paul Bergman moved approval as requested, second by Joann, and passed.				
COUNTY CORRECTIONS				
361 Other Services/Charges (jail repairs)	5,558.00	5,558.00	5	2
\$4424.03 needed to repair ventilation of refrigerant into condenser, and \$1163.57 needed to repair outdoor freezer. Funds are placed into this account by the state annually, around Sept. 1st. Joann moved approval to appropriate the funds upon arrival, second by Bob, and passed with Paul Bergman and Leon voting nay. Paul Bergman wants the Commissioner attorney to research tentative approval to appropriate, before funds are available.				

2005 Budget Hearings

The approved 2004 budget for Co. General fund was \$6,075,315.00. Wages alone, totaled \$2,796,455.00. The 2005 amount requested is \$7,011,361.00., with \$3,882,334.00 in the 100 accounts, only. Requests are up 12% from 2004. Ted reviewed the 16 line statement used for budgeting assistance. He estimates with a 2004 certified levy of \$2,990,148.00, plus the allowed annual levy increase, the county can expect to generate about 3,136,665.00 for 2005. A 2% wage increase would amount to about \$55,000.00 and a 3% increase, about \$83,000.00. Council consensus is to aim for a minimum operating balance of \$1,000,000.00 for January 1, 2006. The county could apply for an excess levy that could generate an additional \$118,000.00. Ambulance subsidies might be a bargaining tool. Ted and Bob agree the county should talk with the state to get the new formula for mental health subsidies. Gary feels the county should get accounting figures for the two ambulance services that receive county subsidy. Gary thinks all parties should meet and discuss options. Both Wabash and North Manchester benefited from the Council attempt to ease Co. General strain by taking dispatch wages from E-911 funds. Each entity now receives \$60,000.00 per year for their dispatch personnel. Highlighted items from department hearings follow. Courthouse: the county can't afford daily overtime for the custodian. Memorial Hall: \$1516. will be needed for fire system monitoring and maintenance, not considered when the budget was prepared, but now necessary per fire marshall inspection. Convention and Visitors Bureau: funded by the 5% innkeeper tax, revenues for 2004 are down. The 2005 budget is down to \$75,000. from \$86,000. in 2004. Welfare/Family-Child: Marjorie is asking for the maximum levy allowed, never has in the past, but a new law limits the annual increase. She is asking less for institutions and more for therapeutic foster care. Probation placements are down and the judge is reducing sentence duration. Marjorie meets weekly with Probation to talk options. She hopes by transferring funds, she won't need additional money in 2004. Plan Commission: 150 building permits

have been issued compared to 168 at this time last year. Secretary is more deserving of a wage increase, if a choice must be made. 12 board members receive a per diem of \$30.00 for each meeting attended. Paul Bergman has a problem with paying volunteer board members. Chad likely won't have enough for mileage thru 2004, and he's already received an additional \$200.00. He has to check permit applicants, sometimes more than once, to make certain they're doing what they applied for. Bob asked about increasing fees for multiple trips, Paul Bergman asked about collection teeth in the ordinance for unsafe buildings. Chad says there's a plan built into the ordinance for extra costs for multiple site trips, and most unsafe buildings have been abandoned by the owner and end in the delinquent tax sale. Noble Township Assessor: Brenda Conner has cut back the last two years, there's nothing left to cut. Brenda asked Council to consider raising the maximum number of years for longevity to 25, rather than the current 20 years. CEDIT: Ted wants to know how other units are spending CEDIT funds, Chris Martin will work to get that information and add it to his 3 year Capital Improvement Plan, but project funds are spent at the discretion of the unit board or mayor. Budget includes 3% raises for Chris and secretary Shirley, who works 30 hours a week. Neither got increases last year. Donations provided \$33,500.00 of the 2004 budget, and they will seek that again for 2005. Board president, David Rutledge, says good things are happening with business, don't let WEDCOR backslide. They have established 3 loans thru the revolving loan fund, Martin Yale is re-training employees from plants in No. Carolina and Mexico that have closed. Under incoming president, Jerry Banks, the board will set new goals. Mary Giangjordana with the Small Business Administration of Kokomo, reports contacts with Wabash County clients have increased by 70% between 2002 and the present. She is working to increase her exposure in Wabash Co., and would like to focus on existing businesses as well as new business. She thanked Council for their continuing support of \$2,500. thru CEDIT. County CLERK: Council can eliminate the 119 line item for clerical hourly in her Clerk's budget. Line 393 is for bank fees. She earns interest on bank accounts, and that money goes into Co. General fund. Election Board: Lori says to eliminate line 441 for voting machines and reduce line 365 to \$1650.00. Voter Registration: voter registration computers aren't on the internet, and will need to be when the state sends new computers. Clerk Perpetuation Fund: Microfilm wages are paid from this budget. Lori will have to buy a scanner soon to replace the only functioning camera. The \$1.00 fee for copies goes into this account. Treasurer: Line 119, clerical hourly, is up \$1,000.00, and line 392 for bank charges will likely be short this year. Weights & Measures: Joe Vogel shared his annual report to the state, and says he works hard to keep businesses honest. He says as long as he treats them fairly, he gets along fine. Prosecutor: the Prosecutor is paid from both Prosecutor and IV-D funds. Line 391, memberships, Lexus/Nexus costs increased. Paul Bergman asked why more professional liability costs are paid from Prosecutor rather than IV-D funds. Bill Hartley, says it must be figured proportionately to the amount of time involved with each part of his job. IV-D: Items 171 and 172 for social security and PERF are moved to IV-D from Prosecutor, as recommended by the State Board of Accounts. The state reimburses this account 60%. Pre-Trial Diversion: would like wage and benefit requests approved for the entire year, rather than quarterly. There's \$75,000.00 in the account now. Circuit Court and Superior Court: Line 216, law books, is up 40%, as Council cut it for 2004, and there won't be enough. Costs are less than in the past, as much comes from the internet. Pauper Council haven't had a raise since 2002. The judges feel there are more negatives than positives to the Public Defender program, including losing local control. Local contract attorneys haven't asked for benefits. Both judges voluntarily cut their budgets for 2004, and will fall short some places. Paul Sites asked about asking local attorneys to supplement the cost of law books, as they use them, too. There's an existing agreement where local attorneys contribute to online membership. There are 3 DSL lines to the Judicial Center, since the line to the law library has been cancelled. Joann suggested the judges share a line, as Judge Sposeep says sharing with the Clerk's office slows his access. There are requests for security office supplies in both budgets. Judge Sposeep says the number thru security is up from last year. Three guns, 577 knives, hand cuff keys and box cutters have been confiscated this year, and 5 arrests have been made within the building. Judge Vanderpool has had 8 jury trials to date. Auditor: Accounts are up because of costs for a new Auditor. The Council discussed contracting with the retiring bookkeeper, for training next year. She could proceed with receiving PERF benefits, and the county wouldn't have to pay any benefits. Incoming Auditor, Jane Ridgeway, said she would prefer training help as needed, rather than for a straight two months. At 5:30 P.M., Council recessed until tomorrow. Thursday, August 26, 2004, the board reconvened at 9:00 A.M. E-911: Request includes \$500.00 wage increase, by July 2005 all dispatchers must be EMD certified. Line 310 is increased for training. Council wants withholding for dispatchers to come from 911 funds. Per 911 equipment, cell phone calls should be located within 500 feet, but not all cell phone companies, for example Centennial, have upgraded their equipment. Sheriff/Jail: Sheriff Striker would like to eliminate the Captain position and go with 3 Sergeants. Because of budget cuts over the last two years, several payments have been held over to the new year. Council noted that obscures the true financial picture. The opportunity for vehicles funded by advertisements, has passed. Line 441 (40,000.) in the Sheriff budget is for year one of a 2 year lease of 3 vehicles for the department. There will be January and July payments, and the department will own them in the end. His budgets have only increased 2% since 2001, and his department is the lowest paid police unit in the county. He's asking for a 9th jail officer in line 119, as he attempts to meet minimum standards cited in the annual inspection. Coroner: Line 324 is for a phone line, so she won't have to use her personal line. Line 326 is for 3 text message pagers. Emergency Management: Director position should be full time, state reimburses 50% of wages and social security, and county should be paying for services they are receiving. EMA has received \$624,338.00 in grants for specific purposes thru EMA efforts. Assistant director, Jared Robison, is willing to pledge his wages to the administrative assistant position. Bob says volunteer hours are up in 2004 compared to last year. Joann asked about collecting fees for their services. Co. Highway: Larry Rice asked if anyone understood the new overtime law. His employees depend on overtime wages in the winter to supplement their incomes, and he fears they may be affected. He asked for a larger wage increase for assistant supervisor, Phil Amones, who is a great asset, and puts in many hours without compensation. 38-C, General & Undistributed, line 441 would be used for a single axle truck, a pick-up truck for the assistant, a back hoe, or a dura patcher in some combination within the \$140,000. total. Local Road & Street: line 417 is an increase because of the length of the project, Old 15 S. Phase III didn't meet the Aug. 21 deadline because utilities have caused delays by not getting their work done. Should be done in 2-3 weeks. Matt Bobay has been a great project manager. Cumulative Bridge: line 4116 for Br. #13 construction can't be encumbered as there isn't a contract yet, so he's budgeting the same amount. Probation: the new administrative fee raised \$24,338.50 from Adult users and \$5,526.00 from Juvenile users, for a total of \$29,864.50 to help supplement department wages. The department was out of money for gasoline in June. Adult Probation: Funds come from user fees. Line 366 is for maintenance on the new imaging system that will be out of warranty by 2005. Juvenile Probation: all funds for the "day reporting" program come from this budget. A grant and help from the school systems supplement the program costs. Drug & Alcohol: funds are generated by offenders. Electronic Monitoring: Once the Community Corrections program is running, funds won't go to this account any longer. Bob thanked Dallas for his efforts on the grant application. Surveyor: Cheri reminded Council her department is working with a smaller staff for now, but that might not be permanent. Line 120 is a \$2.00 compensation to the Surveyor, for every corner stone located each year. The goal is a 5% increase of known cornerstones each year. She suggested a small decrease in line 220 would be okay, she could get some supplies using Surveyor Perpetuation funds. Line 440 is to replace her large plat copy machine, that is failing. It's used by the Recorder, Assessor and Auditor, too. It's 17 years old and the rollers are going bad. It could be fixed, but would cost \$800. to \$900.00. The plotter isn't working either, but having a GIS program would make a difference of what kind of Plotter she bought. She could get a very basic plotter for \$3,000.00, but a GIS compatible unit is in the \$7,000. to \$9,000.00 range. Council says get an additional appropriation this year to fix the copy machine. Surveyor Perpetuation: Cheri will get Council a list of potential uses for this fund, as Paul Bergman asked if it could be used for wages and benefits. Drainage Board: Line 310 for professional services is increased as there are two big drain projects pending. Line 440 is for a wide paper printer used by Cheri and the Auditor for their minute books. Soil & Water District; The county pays wages and benefits for this employee. Soil & Water has subsidized his wage with federal funds. Income from the County Farm is used for local education programs. Their GIS system has a 3-5 foot accuracy, and the Assessor is looking for 6 inch accuracy. They hope the county will continue a charitable contribu-

tion to Soil & Water thru the Commissioners budget. Recorder: Nancy asked Council to return her 200 and 300 accounts to the Co. General Fund, rather than her Recorder Records Perpetuation Fund. With the new computer system the office is more efficient, and there isn't a need for 3 full time people, but she would like money left for part time help. Co. Health Dept.: They work 35 hour weeks. The Food Sanitarian is to check food establishments twice a year, and Dr. Gifford is striving to comply with state law. The state may fine the county for non-compliance. Health Maintenance: one half of the wages for the second nurse are to come from this budget, including social security and benefits. Tobacco Settlement: They have asked Commissioner approval to buy a vehicle for the department from this account. Co. Agent: Teresa Witkoske, foods, works half time in Wabash and Grant counties. Matt Moorman, the agriculture agent, works part time. Nancy Radabaugh, the youth agent, and Teresa's wages are set by Purdue and contracted with the county. Nancy says there isn't much bargaining room there. Line 323, mileage, is up with three users. Line 372 is for leasing two hard-drives, as they are downsizing the number of computers. They will keep existing monitors. From line 440 they would buy a notebook computer for field work, and a docking station for it. They would like a digital camera. Wages: \$500. across the board was discussed, also a 2% increase. Bob suggested no raises for elected officials, but Paul Sites thinks officials should get raises, too. Final consensus was \$500. for 35 hour a week jobs, \$600. for 40 hours a week and 2% for part time positions. After making tentative amendments to budgets, the Co. General total stands at \$6,504,478.00. Council agreed to leave longevity benefits the same, at 1/4 of 1% of the current wages, times the number of years worked, to a maximum of 20 years. The benefits begin after three years of employment. With no further business, the meeting recessed at 9:00 P.M.

/s/ Paul Sites /s/ Leon Ridenour /s/ Gary Nose /s/ Ted Little
/s/ Joann Rauh /s/ Paul Bergman /s/ Bob Fuller

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor