

Council Chairman, Paul Sites, called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with all present except Bob Fuller, who arrived at 8:20. Leon Ridenour shared a prayer, and minutes of the Aug. 25 & 26 meeting were approved with a correction, moved by Joann Rauh, second by Ted Little, and passed. The vote on appropriating money to buy the Simplicity tractor was 5 ayes, and no nays, as Ted and Paul Bergman abstained. Council learned the Co. Treasurer has been notified Manchester Metals wired payment of their delinquent taxes to the county account. They learned the Co. General balance as of 9/7/04 is \$917,851.25. Gary Nose moved to approve Resolution VI-2004 to comply with the Help America Vote Act, second by Bob, and passed with Joann voting nay, due to her opposition to mandates. Clerk, Lori Draper, ask Council members to support a proposed bill to help defray certified mailing costs, as it would save the county postage money. She says if it becomes law beginning 7/1/05, she may collect more from small claims fillings. Robert Bryant, with WTH Engineering presented a GIS plan for the Co. Assessor, that would benefit the Surveyor and Auditor too. The plan calls for 6 inch resolution, rather than the 1 meter distance used by the Sheriff and highway department. The 6 inch high resolution program, would delineate the number of buildings more clearly, but wouldn't eliminate the need to visit the property in person. The Assessor could access the 1998, 1 meter information, with a \$750.00 license fee, or new 6 inch aeriels would run about \$60,000.00. Adding all the parcels plus a soil layer, would run about \$180,000.00. They would also set up the new 18 digit parcel system set by the state. Dealing with property splits would be much easier, and WTH could put the information in a digital form so the public could access information online. Bryant suggested Kelly talk with Sandi Beeks, E-911 coordinator, about possible reimbursement, up to 20%, thru state wireless funds. GIS is a reference tool, and would never replace a survey. Aerial photographs would need updated every 5 to 8 years, to include new properties.

2005 Budget: Council learned from the Auditor the planned excess levy appeal likely won't happen, as the anticipated excess amount needed to be advertised as part of the budget, before the public hearings which were Aug. 25 & 26. The Auditor has talked with the Dept. of Local Government Finance (DLGF) twice about an exception, as did Paul Sites. Paul & Carol faxed a written request for an exception to the DLGF Commissioner, Beth Henkle, and verified it had been received. This is only the second time the county has intended to apply for the excess levy, and with the retirement of our DLGF representative this year, we didn't have him to guide us thru the budget steps. Council had planned to use the excess levy to provide the balance needed for ambulance subsidies. Council directed the Auditor to submit the excess levy application anyway, before the deadline. Council discussed lowering the tax rate for Cumulative Bridge for one year, then increase the Co. General rate by the same amount, as they are both part of the total tax levy. It's probably not a viable option. Bob said there are two areas to cut, as he sees it. One is ambulance funds and the other is wages, which he opposes cutting. In response to Joann's question, Paul Bergman and Bob both say Homeland Security funds for the Health Department are for specific uses and can't be used for ambulance support. WEDCOR director, Chris Martin, hasn't yet received CEDIT income projections for next year, and can't guess what they will be. Some Council members support approving the budget as tentatively set, and watch costs closely for the rest of this year. Bob moved to approve the budget as tentatively set in August, second by Joann, and passed by all after discussion. Ted wants the state to see how the county is backed into a corner thru their regulations. Leon is opposed to approving the Pre-Trial Diversion budget for a full year, rather than quarterly, as has been done the last few years. Sheriff Striker indicated his frustration with not getting an opportunity to request some modifications for his budgets before they were finalized. He wanted to go over the budget line by line, and wasn't ever given the opportunity. Since they disallowed another jail officer, he needed more funds for part time help. Ted moved to pass the 2005 Salary Ordinance second by Joann, and passed. Joann moved to set the clerical hourly range between \$5.95 and \$9.75, second by Bob, and passed, with Gary voting nay.

Ambulance Funding: It's an ongoing situation without an answer at this time. At present there isn't a signed contract with the City of Wabash, and there is a six year agreement with the town of North Manchester. County General is strapped, as are CEDIT funds, which have been used the last couple of years. Manchester collects funds thru their water bill to subsidize Life Med services, and City of Wabash property owners' pay a tax to subsidize the city service. Jeff Buckley, Wabash Co. Hospital CEO, says the hospital isn't able to take over the service, and cited Dukes Hospital in Peru, as an example of what happens if a hospital runs the service. They are being taken over by a larger group, due to money problems. He noted the service is an integral part of local growth and attracting new business. Buckley will learn if Indiana allows the formation of taxing districts for health care costs, as do some states. Buckley said many communities have formed ambulance service advisory boards to gather and share information. He said 5 to 8 members is a good size, and recommended Commissioners and Council each appoint a representative. Ted is anxious to get more information from Mr. Buckley. Bryant with WTH says Woodlawn Hospital in Fulton Co. runs the ambulance service, but the county owns the vehicles and covers any monthly shortfall. Vehicles are purchased thru Cumulative Capital Development funds. Gary thinks in some counties, townships provide some service and funding. Ted says sometimes locally, one service delivers a patient for treatment, collects the fee and leaves, then the other service is called to return the patient home and doesn't get paid. Paul Sites is concerned that tax money is subsidizing a service that has contracted with a hospital outside the county. Buckley was interested to learn that.

After addressing additional appropriation requests, Ted moved to adjourn, second by Paul Bergman, and passed.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION  
ORDINANCE IX 2004

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	AYE	NAY
COUNTY GENERAL				
Coroner				
310 Other Services/Charges (autopsies)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5000.00	7	0
The account is in the red. One never knows how many autopsies will be needed in a budget cycle. Paul Bergman moved approval as requested, second by Ted, and passed.				
324 Other Services/Charges (phone line)	500.00	0.00	7	0
To add a phone line in the Coroner's home for a business line, so she doesn't have to use her private line. She has a fax and answering machine ready to hook up. Council denied the request in the 2005 budget. In answer to Joann's question, they remembered that was because they felt the Coroner already has a pager and cell phone paid for by the county. She could get a splitter for her private line, and attach the fax and answer machine there. Leon moved to deny the request, second by Paul Bergman and passed. Bob was here for these votes, but no other additional requests.				
County Commissioners				
174 Personal Services (sheriff pension)	5,448.00	5,448.00	6	0
July Service of Process fees to be appropriated for the pension fund. Leon moved to approve as requested, second by Gary, and passed.				
Emergency Management				
324 Other Services/Charges (credit reimburse)	89.48	89.48	6	0
A credit for pager air time for volunteers. Please add back to the account. Joann moved approval as requested, second by Gary, and passed.				
COUNTY HEALTH				
319 Other Services/Charges (meningitis vaccine)	1,427.00	1,427.00	6	0
Buys the vaccine, and the user pays for the service, so costs are reimbursed. Ted moved approval as requested, second by Gary, and passed.				
USER FEE - PRE TRIAL DIVERSION				
116 Personal Services (wages)	4,927.50	4,927.50	6	0
171 Personal Services (soc. sec.)	312.75	312.75	6	0
173 Personal Services (medical ins.)	3,256.50	3,256.50	6	0
Fourth quarter wages and benefits for a secretary and medical insurance for the deputy prosecutor. Leon moved approval on all three accounts, second by Ted, passed.				

HEALTH MAINTENANCE

316 Other Services/Charges (hepatitis B vaccine) 194.32 194.32 6 0  
Buys the vaccine, and the user pays for the service, so costs are reimbursed. Paul Bergman moved approval as requested, second by Joann, and passed.

HOMELAND SECURITY (HEALTH)

441 Capital Outlay (cell phones) 354.20 354.20 6 0  
To cover the cost of 5 cell phones and monthly service fees. Paul Bergman moved approval as requested, second by Leon, and passed. This fund is grant money.

ELECTRONIC HOME DETENTION

441 Capital Outlay (furnishings) 10,000.00 10,000.00 6 0  
User fees will buy furniture and equipment for Probation to move to the Memorial Hall building. Much of the existing equipment will be moved to the new location. Ted moved approval as requested, second by Joann, and passed.

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor