

August 20, 2001

Council Chairman, Gary Nose, called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. with all members present. Leon Ridenour shared a prayer, and minutes of the 7/16 meeting were approved as written, moved by Leon, second by Joan Rauh, and passed. Sheriff, Tim Roberts, asked Council approval to use \$3,000. from his Commissary Fund for evaluation of a former employee. This evaluation is recommended by both the Sheriff's attorney and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). There have been two evaluations, one paid by the employee and one by the Sheriff. Since the EEOC is investigating whether or not a disability exists, they have recommended a third, impartial evaluation. This expenditure requires Council approval under the new Commissary account guidelines. Ted moved to approve the request, second by Gene, and passed, with Richard Pepple voting nay. Rich is planning to attend the summary judgement hearing in the Prosecutor lawsuit against the Council, set for 8/27 at 1:00 P.M. in Kosciusko County. There won't be any public input at the hearing, the judge will review attorney presentations. Wedcor director, Bill Bradley, presented a 2001 annual report of activities. Unemployment rate has remained static, and while manufacturing jobs continue to shrink, nationally, some local expansion involves machinery replacing people. Manufacturing has been in a recession for 18 months and the reason we lost Anderson Copper and Brass is because top management doesn't want to live in a non metropolitan area. GDX has passed Ford Meter Box as the largest manufacturing employer in the county. Celotex isn't closing, but keeping one line they intend to expand over time. Bradley says the CEDIT distributions for 2002 will increase about \$182,000. The automotive firm looking at the "spec" building in the industrial park, chose Michigan. Over the last three years, 17 firms have looked at the building. Convention and Visitors Bureau director, Trula Frank, reports they did a T.V commercial in the Cincinnati area to attract visitors. Paul suggests doing the same on Ft. Wayne T.V. to attract northeast Indiana residents. Council met with department heads until 7:30 p.m., then reconvened August 21, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. to complete budget hearings.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2001 V

		AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	AYE	NAY
County General					
Soil & Water Conservation District					
180	Personal Services (secretary longevity)	\$ 58.00	\$ 0.	0	0

This request was not addressed, as the figure requested was insufficient.

CUMULATIVE BRIDGE

3313	Other Services/Charges (Br 13 engineering)	47,000.	47,000.	7	0
3416	Capital Outlay (Br 13 rehab)	210,250.	210,250.	7	0

Project scope has been determined, and \$47,000. will be used for construction plans and specifications. The \$210,250. is for completion of needed work for rehabilitation of the bridge. Bids should be let in March of 2002 with work likely to begin in the summer, so school or harvest traffic won't be affected too much. Eugene Schenkel moved to approve both requests, second by Ted Little, passed.

COUNTY CORRECTIONS

366	Other Services/Charges (jail cooling)	13,863.	13,863.	7	0
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Replace jail basement air conditioning system due to moisture problems. Replacement of original compressor, with two units on the roof isn't working, so Havel Brothers of Ft. Wayne will put in one unit, like there when the jail was built. Ted moved to approve as requested, second by Joan, and passed.

ELECTRONIC HOME MONITORING

311	Other Services/Charges (program costs)	21,000.	21,000.	7	0
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The more expensive Global Positioning tracking service was implemented two years ago, and appropriated funds aren't sufficient to complete 2001. Users pay for this service, and the funds go into the Electronic Monitoring account. Funds are used for the cost of monitoring offenders. The average number of users on a daily basis is twelve. Leon moved to approve as requested, second by Gene, and passed.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION 2001-III

County General					
Historical Museum					
Increase:					
391	Other Services/Charges (pack & move)	\$ 11,583.31	\$ 11,583.31	7	0
Decrease:					
111	Personal Services	6,123.31	6,123.31	7	0
119	Personal Services	5,460.00	5,460.00	7	0

To help defray packing and moving costs of museum items, the balance budgeted for the curator and hourly help, in the museum account, will be used. Rich moved approval as requested, second by Paul Sites, and passed.

Council began budget hearings with the understanding that about \$330,000. more than last year's income was spent in 2000. Flo Dahlstrom, chair of the Animal Control Board, asked for an increase in the hourly wages for the full time and part-time employees, to \$9.00 and \$8.00, respectively. They can't keep help at the current wages, and services will have to be cut, as donations have diminished, too. Sheriff Roberts asked for a wage increase for his secretary, who is an exceptional employee with numerous responsibilities. He said to take the increase from his wages if necessary. The Council suggests paying a full time jail dispatcher from E-911 funds to conserve county general funds. That change would have to be made next year, since it's not in the 2002 budget requests. Soil & Water District representative, Dale Kroft, reports their secretary also does presentations for school children and businesses. Larry Rice says Wabash Co. ranks 87th in the 92 counties in the number of employees versus road miles. His guys work hard and they deserve a raise. There is sufficient money in the highway account to grant raises. Rich moved to table wage discussions until requests for the 200, 300 and 400 accounts have been reviewed, second by Joan, and passed. Department requests for increases include: Sheriff # 411 to buy a used vehicle for the detectives, as the current one is on it's last leg: E-911 # 410 to update current maps; Highway 38-C # 441 to replace old shop truck(s), Larry has a GMC \$1,000. rebate plus a balance this year that could be encumbered; County Assessor # 311 deleted, as costs for assessing new improvements is part of the extended reassessment contract, paid out of Cum Reassessment; Noble Twp. Assessor # 441 update two terminals due to assessing changes; County Agent #372 add one P.C. to his lease agreement, as one terminal is incompatible with Purdue provided server and #440 for a used digital camera; Circuit and Superior Court # 440 for video conferencing equipment and sound systems for each courtroom; Coroner # 223 for biohazard equipment, # 324 for a phone/fax combination and # 325 for a pager. Council reconvened at 5:30 p.m. on August 22nd to meet with Jim Craft with the State Board of Tax Commissioners. All members were present. Craft says the current requests exceed our 2002 maximum levy of \$2,992,132. by about \$448,772. Cutting that amount would give an estimated operating balance of \$625,067. as of 1/1/03. Based on the county spending over the first six months of 2001, we will need about 1.3 million over that same time in 2002. Our local option distribution for May 2001 was \$893,000. Council wants to keep a larger operating balance, closer to one million. Jim agreed with Ted that it appears the judicial building funds in the Memorial Hall account were not, and should be, added to the appropriations on line 2 of the sixteen line statement used for projecting finances, and setting a tax rate. That change will lower the operating balance further. Council re-convened on 8/27/01 at 5:30 p.m. with all members attending. They discussed using up to \$500,000. in CEDIT funds toward the judicial building, thus freeing an equal amount of county general funds. They reviewed all county general accounts, except wages, cutting requests to the 2001 totals, or lower, if the requested amount was less than 2001. There were a few exceptions, like utilities, that were increased, some. Council hopes Craft can verify this will increase the operating balance, without bringing the 2002 budget below the maximum levy. Council will reconvene on 9/4/01 at 5:30 p.m. hopefully to address 2002 wages. The Auditor reported the county is expecting a return of \$1,821,000. from CAGIT reserves in excess of the statutory requirement, along with an excess return in the CEDIT funds of \$858,420. Both will be distributed among taxing units by the State Board of Tax Commissioners, with the county share of CAGIT funds going into the county general fund. The Auditor has been in contact with Bob Lain, assistant director of the Tax and Revenue division of the State Budget Agency on this matter. Council members reconvened their meeting at 5:30 p.m. on 9/5/01 with Ted Little arriving

at 6:25. Council is not comfortable with the estimated balances supplied by the Auditor's office, and wants to see year end balances before granting wage increases or increasing funds they have cut, except Joan, who thinks at least a 1% wage hike could be granted across the board for about \$48,000. After discussion of the benefits of funding Wedcor thru the CEDIT budget, and reviewing a Small Business Development Corp. (SBDC) progress report, Council tentatively decided to delete the \$2500. support of the SBDC, as they would like to know more about results. Rich says, according to statute, Council should review User Fee funds' claims on a monthly basis. Those accounts shouldn't be budgeted on an annual basis, but funds should be appropriated by Council as claims are presented. Council will meet Monday, September 10, 2001 at 8:00 A.M. to finalize the 2002 budget. With no further business, Gene moved to adjourn, second by Rich, and passed.

/s/ Gary Nose /s/ Leon Ridenour /s/ Paul Sites /s/ Richard Pepple
/s/ Joan Rauh /s/ Ted Little /s/ Eugene Schenkel

Attest: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor