

March 25, 2002

Wabash County Council Chairman, Gary Nose, called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with Joann Rauh absent. Leon Ridenour shared a prayer, and minutes of the 2/25 meeting were approved as written, moved by Richard Pepple, second by Paul Sites, and passed. Council discussed a cash flow shortage in the County General fund. The Auditor reports there is \$126,568.56 in a Revolving Loan Fund set up in 1988 for a loan to Bulldog Battery Company. The account is no longer needed, and the State Board of Accounts advised the funds be transferred and the account closed. They suggest a Resolution to transfer the money to the County General Fund for a specified use. Employee wages and benefits would qualify as a specific use of the funds. The county could request an early draw from the June settlement, probably about \$80,000.00. The Council, by resolution, could also temporarily borrow from another fund, but the loan must be repaid by year's end. The Local Road & Street Account has a balance of 4 million, although Larry Rice says about 2 million of that is committed. Ted Little isn't comfortable about borrowing unless he's sure there will be sufficient money to repay the loan as required. He wants historical data of income and expenses on a month to month basis for the last several years. He also wants projections for upcoming expenses. Rich Pepple suggests hiring a CPA to project county finances. Paul wants a list of all funds and the account balance. Leon moved to approve Resolution 2002 - 2, transferring \$126,568.56 from the Revolving Fund account to the County General account to be used for wages and benefits, second by Eugene Schenkel, and passed. Rich moved to request an early draw from the county's June settlement, second by Ted, and passed. Rich moved to proceed with an emergency meeting, second by Paul, and passed. Plan Commissioner, Chad Dilling, told Council there are two buildings in Lagro that are hazardous and need razed. He has gotten three quotes to raze both buildings for \$11,550. or \$9,000. or \$8,000. The bank has foreclosed on one property and the owner of the other has been given until 4/4/02 to remove her building. There's a fine if she doesn't comply. Chad hasn't found any statute making the lender responsible for razing the building they have foreclosed. County costs to raze the buildings would be added to the property taxes. Both properties currently have delinquent taxes, but not long enough to put them in the tax sale. Larry Thrush, the Board of Zoning Appeals attorney, has met all requirements to this point, and has checked the possibility of burning them for training. One is too close to other buildings, the other is a possibility, but there are liability concerns for the county if anything goes wrong. The next step is appropriating funds to raze the buildings. North Manchester residents were present to discuss a long term fix for ambulance services. Gary and Ted had done research in surrounding counties. In comparison, our county isn't spending an exorbitant amount. Adams Co. pays \$350,000. a year and Clinton Co. pays \$582,000., both from their county general funds. Hamilton Co. pays \$75,000. quarterly to a private hospital for services. Elkart Co. and Knox Co. have privately owned services, not subsidized by the county. LaPorte Co. budgets about 1 million, but gets about \$800,000. reimbursed in payments. Ted learned several places are considering combining fire and ambulance services, as the City of Wabash already does. Gary talked with an Association of Indiana Counties representative, who doesn't think a user fee is possible, however, North Manchester representatives had a letter from attorney, Charles Tiede, citing statute that he believes allows adding a tax for ambulance services. Only the county can levy this tax which would be added to property taxes. Council members would prefer adding a tax to phone bills, thus taxing a larger number of potential ambulance users. Gary says 27 counties have agreements with hospitals throughout the state, and Paul thinks our county hospital should be involved in this issue. Council members discussed the potential establishment of a Cumulative Capital Development tax. Funds could be used for equipment purchases and capital projects. The Cumulative Bridge rate could be lowered, so taxes weren't increased for property owners. After addressing the additional appropriation requests, Leon moved to adjourn, second by Gene, and passed.

Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2002 - III

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	AYE	NAY
COUNTY GENERAL				
County Commissioners				
394 Other Services/Charges (city ambulance)	\$ 50,000.	\$ 0.		
395 Other Services/Charges (Life-Med subsidy)	50,000.	0.		
Council members tabled the request without taking a vote, due to the financial situation.				
COUNTY HEALTH				
331 Other Services/Charges (refund)	229.	229.	6	0
This refund needs appropriated back into the printing account for future use.				
HEALTH MAINTENANCE				
315 Other Services/Charges (nurturing program)	8,000.	8,000.	6	0
Funds from the tobacco settlement to be donated to the Nurturing Program of Wabash County. Leon moved to approve both Health Department requests, second by Gene, and passed by all.				
LOCAL ROAD & STREET				
5314 Other Services/Charges (Old 15 S phase III)	46,000.	46,000.	6	0
An amount not to exceed \$46,000.00, for management services to appraise, negotiate, and secure right-of-way. Butler, Fairman & Seufert will provide the service, the only part of the project that's financed locally 100%. Gene moved to approve, second by Paul, and passed by all.				

/s/ Gary Nose  
/s/ Ted Little

/s/ Leon Ridenour  
/s/ Eugene Schenkel

/s/ Richard Pepple  
/s/ Paul Sites

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