

Council Chairman, Gary Nose, called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with all members present. Leon Ridenour shared a prayer, and minutes of the 10/28 meeting were approved as written, moved by Joann Rauh, second by Paul Sites, and passed. The Auditor reports the Co. General balance as of 11/29/02 is \$1,205,736.86. Upon the recommendation of Plan Commissioner, Chad Dilling, Ted moved to re-appoint Jerry Younce to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a four year term beginning 1/1/03, second by Leon, and passed. Regarding eliminating the inventory tax, Richard Pepple, who doesn't want to adversely affect property owners in an effort to benefit business income, moved to discontinue a discussion of the matter, but with no second, his motion died. Several car dealers attended, supporting elimination of the tax, including; Roger Moorehead with Wabash Valley Chrysler, Bob Shepherd, No. Manchester, Steve Denney of Denney Motor Sales, David Dorais of Dorais Chevrolet and Don Meyer of northern Wabash County. Moorehead says he'd have more employees if he didn't have to pay inventory tax. Dorais and Shepherd want an environment that encourages growth. Denney reminds the tax affects all retail business in the county. Chris Martin, WEDCOR director, says his board stands in support of abolishing the inventory tax and increasing the CEDIT rate as the law allows. Currently at .25%, the maximum allowed increase is another .25%. Ted Little polled neighboring counties and learned Fulton and Grant counties will likely rescind the tax this year, while Huntington and Kosciusko won't rescind this year. Ted doesn't think the Council is doing its job if they make a change without knowing where replacement funding will come from. The county needs to at least break even. Commissioner Darle Dawes supports eliminating the inventory tax, indicating he'd still have his farming business, if he'd had the money he paid for inventory taxes. County Assessor, Kelly Schenkel, talked with Steve McKinney at the Dept. of Local Government Finance, who recommends waiting since the tax rate for next year hasn't been established. Leon says the tax has been a deterrent to this state for years, and he moved to eliminate the inventory tax, second by Eugene Schenkel, and passed with Rich voting nay. Council signed Ordinance 2002-VIII, which rescinds the inventory tax as of 12/31/02. County Assessor Schenkel told Council most of the tax exempt properties in the county are grandfathered under the 1987 law, don't exceed 15 acres or are used for educational purposes. She gave them a list of tax exemptions by township. She said the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals has approved the exemptions for 2003 pay 2004, so those can't be changed. Sheriff, Tim Roberts, told Council he will ask Commissioners for an emergency appropriation of \$44,000. from his Co. Corrections fund to get the jail 100 account out of the red. Medical insurance costs, inmate meals and matron severance pay are the culprits. Tim told Council \$119,196. has been collected between 1/1/01 and 10/30/02 towards the police pension fund, and \$96,231. has been paid into the pension fund over the last two years to keep it actuarially sound. He says according to Indiana Code, the Auditor should show Council monthly claims submitted by the Sheriff for service of civil papers, and the Council should appropriate the funds into the pension fund. Council set their schedule for 2003 with meetings beginning at 8:00 A.M. on; 1/06, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28, 5/27, 6/23, 7/28, 9/15, 10/27, and 12/08. Budget hearings are Aug. 25th and 26th beginning at 1:00 P.M. After addressing the additional appropriation and transfer requests, Leon moved to adjourn, second by Ted, and passed.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2002 XI

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	AYE	NAY
COUNTY GENERAL				
Clerk				
393 Other Services/Charges (bank fees)	\$ 8,000.	\$ 0.		
Clerk asked request to be withdrawn, as bank has removed fees. No vote taken.				
Coroner				
211 Supplies	600.	578.53	7	0
For office supplies, Ted moved to approve \$578.53 to get the account to a zero balance, second by Gene, and passed				
310 Other Services/Charges (autopsies)	16,000.	16,000.	6	1
Number of required autopsies can vary, and the cost has increased to \$1500. An autopsy is required if the Coroner can't determine the cause of death or the Health officer wants more information. Local autopsies are half the cost of going elsewhere. Paul moved to approve as requested, second by Ted, and passed, with Joann voting nay.				
Prosecuting Attorney				
117 Personal Services (Victim assistant wages)	500.	500.	7	0
State approved \$14,000. for the job, Council approved \$13,000.00. Position fiscal year is July thru June, and Prosecutor is asking for an increase of \$500. in 2002, then will ask for another \$500. increase before July of 2003. If not used funds go back to the state. Leon moved approval as requested, along with approval of amended form 144, second by Paul, and passed.				
Commissioners				
314 Other Services/Charges (Bowen Center subsidy)	2,335.	0.	7	0
Amount needed to bring the county to the figure required according to state law. Gary notes there are two formula's for setting the payment. Either based on assessed value or population, Gary feels Wabash Co. would benefit if the 3 counties served, beyond the five chartered counties were figured into the mix. Ted had reviewed the Bowen annual report showing labor and net worth increases that were significant for a not for profit entity. The Miami school building was appraised at \$105,000., yet Bowen paid \$325,000. for it. Bowen fiscal officer, Jay Baumgartner, says their lease with the hospital is up in a couple of years, space there isn't sufficient, buying the school and spending \$400,000. to renovate was cheaper than a new building. Paul moved to deny the request, second by Ted, and passed.				
399 Other Services/Charges (Wards of Courts)	100,000.	100,000.	6	1
Gary says Allen Co. has approved a fee for placement of youth in Wards of Court programs, and thinks Wabash Co. should explore the option. Ted moved to approve the request, as the line item is currently half that amount in the red, second by Gene, and passed, with Rich abstaining. Ted also wants to learn more about the Allen Co. fee.				
COUNTY HIGHWAY				
Administration				
1341 Other Services/Charges (liability insurance)	9,467.	9,467.	7	0
Costs are based on statewide usage over the past year, and Larry Rice, supervisor, never knows the new figures when the budget is set. His 100 account doesn't have the uncommitted funds to cover the deficit. Leon moved approval as requested, second by Rich, and passed.				
CUMULATIVE BRIDGE				
3405 Other Services/Charges (Noble Twp. # 34)	60,000.	60,000.	7	0
Structure is in bad shape, needs replaced. There's a temporary 5 ton weight limit on it. Larry has asked for quotes, and requested figure is likely higher than needed. Paul moved approval as requested, second by Ted, and passed.				
TRANSFER RESOLUTION 2002-5				
COUNTY GENERAL				
Auditor				
Inc: 211 Supplies (Council Minutes book)	\$ 500.	\$ 500.	7	0
Dec: 310 Other Services/Charges	100.	100.	7	0
323 Other Services/Charges	100.	100.	7	0
361 Other Services/Charges	300.	300.	7	0
Leon moved approval as requested, second by Paul, and passed				
Coroner				
Inc: 119 Personal Services	100.	100.	7	0
211 Supplies	627.04	48.51	7	0
221 Supplies	500.	500.	7	0
323 Other Services/Charges	1081.07	1081.07	7	0
324 Other Services/Charges	131.25	131.25	7	0
325 Other Services/Charges	166.31	166.31	7	0
Dec: 112 Personal Services	500.	289.77	7	0
222 Supplies	211.06	211.06	7	0
223 Supplies	419.75	419.75	7	0
322 Other Services/Charges	16.	16.	7	0
326 Other Services/Charges	39.03	39.03	7	0
391 Other Services/Charges	50.	50.	7	0
441 Capital Outlay	791.30	791.30	7	0
Transfers needed to balance line items. Ted moved to approve transfers, changing # 211				

amount to \$48.51, second by Joann, and passed.

Prosecuting Attorney

Inc: 441 Capital Outlay (computers, printer)	4,124.97	4,124.97	7	0
Dec: 212 Supplies	469.97	469.97	7	0
310 Other Services/Charges	500.	500.	7	0
311 Other Services/Charges	255.	255.	7	0
312 Other Services/Charges	500.	500.	7	0
340 Other Services/Charges	2400.	2400.	7	0

Needs 3 computers, and a secretary has paid for a needed printer and needs reimbursed.
Rich moved approval as requested, second by Gene, and passed.

Project IV-D

Inc: 441 Capital Outlay (chair, typing stand)	870.92	870.92	7	0
Dec: 310 Other Services/Charges	713.47	713.47	7	0
324 Other Services/Charges	157.45	157.45	7	0

Ted moved approval as requested, second by Leon, and passed.

Circuit Court

Inc: 216 Supplies (law books)	4000.	2000.	7	0
440 Capital Outlay (hearing impaired system)	10,000.	0.	7	0
Dec: 122 Personal Services	1000.	0.	7	0
135 Personal Services	6000.	0.	7	0
136 Personal Services	3000.	2000.	7	0
371 Other Services/Charges	1500.	0.	7	0
392 Other Services/Charges	1500.	0.	7	0
393 Other Services/Charges	1000.	0.	7	0

Commissioner, Brian Hauptert, said they haven't been apprised of plans for a sound system, even though they have asked all expenses above \$100. be presented to them for approval. Leon moved to deny the request for transfer of \$10,000. to account 440, second by Rich, and passed. Joann moved to approve \$2000. for account 216, second by Ted, and passed.

Superior Court

Inc: 216 Supplies (law books)	4000.	2000.	7	0
240 Supplies (security officer)	400.	100.	7	0
440 Capital Outlay (hearing impaired system)	10,000.	0.	7	0
Dec: 135 Personal Services	6000.	2000.	7	0
311 Other Services/Charges	4000.	0.	7	0
312 Other Services/Charges	400.	100.	7	0
317 Other Services/Charges	4000.	0.	7	0

Commissioners haven't heard of plans, Leon moved to deny the transfer of \$10,000. to line 440, second by Rich, and passed. Joann moved approval to transfer \$2000. to line 216, second by Ted, and passed. There wasn't money budgeted to line 240, and Paul moved to approve as requested, with no second, the motion died. Ted moved to approve the transfer of \$100. to account 240, second by Leon, and passed.

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

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor