

September 8, 1998

Chairman, Ted Little, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with all members present. Leon Ridenour shared prayer, and minutes of the Aug. 17th & 18th meeting were approved as written, moved by Bob Whitesel, second by Richard Pepple, and passed. Bill Bradley, WEDCOR, is asking for an increase from the county share of CEDIT funds to WEDCOR, from \$42,000. to \$45,000. The contribution has stayed at \$42,000. for 3 years, and the majority of the additional \$3,000. would go towards marketing, which took the biggest cut last year. WEDCOR will ask Wabash and No. Manchester for additional funds, also. Bill's "99" budget won't be completed until December, but he brought copies of the "97" and "98" budgets. The council would like an accountability report of what's been spent versus what has been accomplished before they make a decision on the request, at their October Council meeting. Dallas Winchester, Sheriff major, presented a mandated 3rd amendment to the Police Retirement Fund for council approval. There are minor changes in the salary definition and credited services. Council members signed, and a copy will be on file in the Auditors' office. Rich moved to approve charging for flu and pneumonia shots this year, so more serum could be purchased next year. Flu shots will be \$3.00 and pneumonia shots will be \$5.00., second by Gary Nose, and passed. Currently, serum funds come from the cigarette tax monies. Council wants to talk with Jane Skeans at the October meeting concerning pediatric versus adult requirements regarding free vaccinations. Serum for infant immunizations is provided by the federal government. They also want a follow-up report after the flu vaccine is administered on October 24th and 25th.

Innkeeper Tax increase from 3% to 5%: Trula Frank, Tourism director, says the increase would bring our county in line with surrounding counties (Miami Co, doesn't have the tax) it would enable her to work full time promoting Wabash County and allow more funds for marketing. Wabash City does some marketing on its own, as does the Honeywell Center, while Trula represents the entire county. Doug Lehman, Pat Lynn and Leon Ridenour support the increase, while George Scheerer, a North Manchester hotel owner, asked that the increase be denied. He feels the infrastructure for tourism has not improved over the last 25 years. Campers, reservoir visitors, or restaurant diners don't pay a local tax, why is the hotel industry singled out. Holiday Inn Express representatives, who opposed the increase at the Commissioners public hearing, didn't attend this meeting. Eugene Schenkel moved to increase the Innkeepers tax from 3% to 5% effective 1/1/99, second by Bob Whitesel, the motion passed with Ted and Rich voting nay.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE # VII

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	AYE	NAY
County General				
Noble Twp. Assessor				
119 Personal Ser. (add'l part time help)	\$ 300.	\$ 300.	7	0
Jim Smith moved approval, second by Gene, and passed				
County Commissioner				
388 Other Ser/Chgs (for reimbursable grant)	50,000.	50,000.	7	0
For a Local Planning Council reimbursable transportation grant, with funds channeled thru the county. Jim moved to approve, second by Bob, and passed with Gene voting nay.				
County Highway				
Maintenance & Repair				
2241 Supplies (stone & gravel)	30,000.	30,000.	7	0
2242 Supplies (culvert pipe & tile)	20,000.	20,000.	7	0
2311 Other Ser/Chgs (repair roads by contract)	16,000.	16,000.	7	0
2312 Other Ser/Chgs (repair bridge by contract)	120,000.	120,000.	7	0
All requests are precipitated by the damage from July storms.				
Cumulative Bridge				
3409 Capital Outlay BR # 108 (Noble Twp.)	110,000.	110,000.	7	0
Elliott Rd. bridge destroyed by the flooding. Jim moved to approve the highway requests from accounts 2241, 2242, 2311, 2312 and 3409. Second by Rich and passed.				
3414 Capital Outlay BR # 41 (Rd.100N over Wab. Riv.)	3,500.	0.	0	7
3426 Capital Outlay BR # 506 (Huntington St.)	9,620.	0.	0	7
Additional claim was submitted by Butler Fairman & Seufert Engineering, following the final audit report on accounts 3414 & 3426. Rich moved to deny appropriation until they see a copy of the audit report, second by Bob, and passed.				

Budget 1999: Trustee/Assessor's Lori Draper & LuAnn Layman shared their concerns with the formula used for setting Trustee/Assessor wages, and ask Council members to reconsider before finalizing the budget. After discussion, Council stayed with their formula. There was also a discussion about the August vote to limit funding \$1,000. additional for achieving level 2 status to one person per township. The law says the Trustee/Assessor should be paid for completing the extra training. Pre-Trial Diversion budget request for money to replace the roof on the Prosecutor's office (#361) was discussed. The Prosecutor indicates it's in an agreement he has with the Commissioners. Since the Council wants to see a copy of the agreement before approving the request, Rich moved to postpone a decision on that section until they've reviewed the agreement, second by Jim, and passed. Council took no action at this time on establishing a graduated pay scale for new hires, as it may be a policy decision rather than a financial matter. Leon then motioned to approve the entire 1999 budget as it was tentatively approved at the August hearings, second by Bob and passed. With no further business, Jim moved to adjourn, second by Leon, and passed.

/s/ Ted Little /s/ Leon Ridenour /s/ Richard Pepple /s/ Gary Nose
/s/ Bob Whitesel /s/ Eugene Schenkel /s/ James Smith

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor