

County Auditor, Carol Stefanatos, called the County Council meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with all members attending. Gary Nose moved to elect Ted Little as Chairman and Leon Ridenour as Vice Chairman for 1999, second by Bob Whitesel, and passed. Ted thanked members for their support and offered to relinquish his leadership role before final approval. Leon shared a prayer, and the 12/7/98 minutes were approved with the correction that Rich Pepple's name be removed from the signature list, since he was absent that meeting. Bob moved approval as corrected, second by Leon, and passed. Ted welcomed newly appointed Council member Paul Sites, who replaces Jim Smith, representing the North Manchester area. Bob moved to re-appoint Phillip Mendenhall to the Alcohol Beverage Board for 1999, second by Eugene Schenkel, and passed. Learned Noble Township Assessor employee, Jean Schuler, has been employed full time since 1992, but hasn't been signed up for Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF). Since the county has been contributing the full amount for this retirement benefit since 1988, it would take about \$11,000. to make Jean current. Council agrees to pick up the back funding, but will make it part of the 2000 budget so it's figured in the tax rate. Council learned Bob Lundquist and LuAnn Layman accepted appointments to the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA). There's controversy about county employees sitting on this board, but for now St. Board of Tax Commissioners attorney, Bill Waltz, says leave things status quo until there's a definitive answer. Council gave Jane Skeans, Co. Health Nurse, tentative approval for \$2,000. to be appropriated from the cigarette tax monies returned from the state, for the nurturing program thru Step Ahead. Jane will submit the request at the April 5th meeting for official approval.

Sheriff Tim Roberts told Council members that Kosciusko Co. wanted to pull out of the Drug Task Force partnership with Wabash Co. that has been funded by a Criminal Justice Grant. They feel Wabash Co. has had more than their fair share of the officers' time. The four year grant funds will cease in April, and Tim thinks he has enough funds to get thru the rest of this year, but he's asking the Council not to decrease his manpower in 2000, when he asks for this deputy to be added to his payroll.

Treasurer, Ann Gillespie, provided copies of her annual report, and noted interest rates were down in 1998. She noted the Board of Finance (Commissioners & Treasurer) sets the policy for investing, her investments are for 3 month increments and she keeps 2.5 million available for emergencies. Four funds are invested separately with interest staying with each fund, and there are two non interest bearing and two interest bearing accounts used for property tax payments at four different banks. She has two "working" accounts at separate banks, the county uses for writing checks, and these have service charges. Rich is disturbed by bank charges, and asked about using SWEEP accounts. Ann says the Treasurer's Association Attorney, Brian Burdick, doesn't recommend SWEEP accounts because of security issues. Those accounts wouldn't be insured, and back-up funds of an equal amount should be kept in a separate bank. Ann said property taxes could be paid by credit card through a third party as early as 2000, with minor changes to the tax statement. There would be a 2% user fee tacked on to the charge, but no costs would be incurred by the county. The county would be notified of payments within 24 hours. This would be an added convenience to the taxpayer, as would a night deposit box at the courthouse for tax and support payments along with other possibilities. One could be purchased for about \$1200. according to Ann.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE I 1999

		AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	AYE	NAY
COUNTY GENERAL					
Memorial Hall					
361	Other Ser/Chgs (roof repairs)	\$70,000.	\$70,000.	7	0
Would cover balance for roof repairs, plus leave a balance in the fund for the rest of 1999. Leon moved approval of the \$70,000., second by Paul, and passed by all.					
Emergency Management					
446	Capital Outlay (portable communication radios)	5,000.	5,000.	7	0
For communication during emergency and crisis situations, Gene moved approval, second by Gary, and passed.					
Soil/Water Conservation					
113	Personal Services (secretary wages)	485.	485.	7	0
3.2% increase granted by Council at budget time exceeded request due to a calculation error (\$199.), additional \$285.36 needed to cover 1998 shortfall. Rich moved approval, second by Bob, and passed.					
CUMULATIVE BRIDGE					
3402	Capital Outlay (Carroll St. Br. 509 const.)	400,00.	400,000.	7	0
Re-appropriated for 1999 as it couldn't be encumbered from 1998 budget because there was no contract. Rich moved approval, second by Paul, and passed by all.					
LOCAL ROAD & STREET					
5401	Capital Outlay (CR 1300 N)	43,000.	43,000.	7	0
Build up road to eliminate standing water, home owner needs regular medical attention, and will be responsible for raising his driveway. Council says many county roads have water.					
5415	Capital Outlay (Old ST.RD. 15 const.)	44,000.	44,000.	7	0
5417	Capital Outlay (Old ST.RD. 15 Phase II)	605,000.	605,000.	7	0
5419	Capital Outlay (Old ST.RD. 15 Phase III)	500,000.	500,000.	7	0
Funds for St. Rd. 15 accounts couldn't be encumbered from 1998, as there wasn't a contract. Gary moved approval of all Rd. & St. requests, second by Bob and passed.					
LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE					
313	Other Ser/Chgs (flu & pneumonia serum)	5,303.	5,303.	7	0
Collected from 1998 vaccinations, 1,500 flu & 200 pneumonia at \$3.00 each. Will buy 1999 serum with funds. Bob moved approval, second by Rich, and approved by all.					
DRUG FREE COMMUNITY					
303	Other Ser/Chgs (Wabash High School)	2,000.	2,000.	7	0
305	" (Court Program)	500.	500.	7	0
306	" (Court Drug Screen)	2,000.	2,000.	7	0
307	" (Youth Services)	1,200.	1,200.	7	0
310	" (Wabash Co. LCC)	8,250.	8,250.	7	0
312	" (Otis Bowen Center)	3,200.	3,200.	7	0
313	" (Man Comm Schools)	2,000.	2,000.	7	0
314	" (Parkview Behavioral Center)	4,000.	4,000.	7	0
316	" (StepAhead Parent)	2,000.	2,000.	7	0
317	" (Bog Bro/Big Sis Drug)	500.	500.	7	0
318	" (Big Bro/Big Sis Education)	400.	400.	7	0
319	" (Step Ahead Alc/Abuse/Anger)	1,200.	1,200.	7	0
320	" (Wabash Police Dept.)	4,000.	4,000.	7	0

Rich moved to table the requests, since the Auditor didn't send Council the entire packet for review, second by Leon, who then withdrew his second after additional discussion. Since there wasn't another second, Council didn't act on the table motion. Project goal is to teach kids they can have fun without drugs, and grant recipients must meet qualifications, attend quarterly meetings. Funding is thru court collected fees, 75% stays here and 25% goes to the state. Gene moved approval of all L.C.C. requests, second by Paul, and passed.

WABASH COUNTY CEDIT

318	Other Ser/Chgs (Small Bus. Development, Kokomo)	2,500.	2,500.	5	1
1 abstain					
Guides potential entrepreneurs, it's an appropriate use of CEDIT funds. Bob moved approval, second by Gene, and passed. Gary voted nay and Rich abstained.					

E-911

413 Capital Outlay (update for cellular locating) 63,000. 0. 0 7
 Council wants more information and questions answered by GTE. Is current equipment year 2000 compliant, will proposed Phase II equipment be compatible with future needed Phase III equipment, or must it be scrapped. Rich moved to table the motion for now, second by Leon, passed by all to table.

Council adjourned to an executive session to discuss Harry Knable litigation. With no further business, Bob moved to adjourn, second by Rich, and passed.

/s/ Ted Little /s/ Leon Ridenour /s/ Gary Nose /s/ Paul Sites
/s/ Richard Pepple /s/ Eugene Schenkel /s/ Robert Whitesel

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor