

Council Chairman, Ted Little, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the courthouse with all members attending. Leon Ridenour shared a prayer, and minutes of the 7/19 meeting were approved as written, moved by Richard Pepple, second by Paul Sites, and passed. Eugene Schenkel moved to approve Resolution 1999-8, which authorizes borrowing up to \$500,000. from a local lender for the Urbana Drainage project, second by Robert Whitesel, and passed. Lake City Bank & Wab. Co. Farm Bur. Credit Union, the lower of the two at 6.4%, were the only two lenders to respond with quotes. The loan would be repaid with CEDIT funds already dedicated to the project, and property owner assessments, if they approve the project.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE V 1999

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	AYE	NAY
Local Road & Street				
5425 Cap. Outlay (E. Hill St. ext.)	\$101,000.	\$101,000.	7	0

Leon moved approval for the project to wedge and level 1.9 miles of road in preparation to chip and seal a 4 mile area between Wabash & Lagro, second by Gene, and passed by all.

2000 budget hearings: Professor Harshbarger from Manchester College puts the cost of living index at 2.3%, Rich says the Social Security increase is 1.2%, David M. Griffith & Associates recommends a 3.2% increase in wages and officials are asking for a 5% increase plus county payment of 80% of health insurance premiums. The 5% increase request reflects higher insurance premiums, plus an attempt to stay competitive with similar sized counties. Paul noted the health insurance increases in 1999 amount to a 2.6% increase at wages of \$20,000. for family coverage or 2% increases at wages of \$32,000. Fewer than half the employees are covered by the plan, and as the census drops, the cost to employees increases. Paul moved for county payment of an additional 5%, to 80%, of health insurance costs for 2000, with no second, the motion died. Rich moved for an across the board 3% increase, second by Leon, and passed with Ted voting nay. Clerical hourly rates were set at \$5.75 to \$9.15. All figures are tentative, pending budget approval on September 7, 1999. COMMISSIONERS: They are responsible for the upkeep of the courthouse, and several officials budgeted funds for cleaning services. Council feels this would be a Commissioner decision, and will deny all department requests for cleaning funds. CLERK: Voter Registration Account 220, her computer program has been in use since 1987, and will be phased out by the software vendor by 2001. SURVEYOR: amounts in accounts 311 and 372 are switched for next year. Surveyor Corner Perpetuation Fund budget hourly rates are set at \$5.75 to \$9.15. CEDIT: G & S Metals, in the Wabash So. Industrial Park and the Dane project in No. Manchester are both new. Five different entities are looking at using the "spec" building in the Wabash North Industrial Park. The promotions budget is lower this year, because every other year WEDCOR gets a grant from PSI for promotions. NOBLE TWP. ASSESSOR: requests a 7% increase for her full time employee who was made a deputy in 1999, and works the same hours as other deputies, but receives lower wages. The Council settled on a 5% increase. Brenda asked that # 322 be decreased from \$500. to \$100. and \$200. of the difference be put in # 391, which she forgot to fund for 2000. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: FEMA reimburses 50% of wages for the director & assistant. Gary Nose has noticed significant changes in this administration from his position on the board. He and Leon support a substantial increase for this office. Paul moved to tentatively leave the budget as requested, second by Bob, and passed. PROSECUTOR: Today he signed a new lease agreement for Prosecutor office space with Co. Commissioners. It takes effect 1/2000 and terms are \$15,400. per year, plus maintenance and repairs. One third of the rent will come from the prosecutor budget and two thirds from IV-D. The agreement automatically renews each year, unless either party requests a change. Mr. Plummer notes it's the Prosecutor's call whether to make the job full time, and can be done at the beginning of any year he's in office. Account 313 is new, as the victim assistant grant has been cut by 35% for next year. Account 116 is a new position. CO. HEALTH: Nurse, Jane Skeans, now must inspect tattoo parlors as part of her job, and asked that her wages be the same as the county sanitarian. TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR: Council agreed to use the number of parcels assessed, times an average of the per parcel cost per township, dropping the high and low numbers. Last year's average of \$11.51, times a 3% increase is \$11.86. Township parcels from Co. Assessor records are: Chester 913, Lagro 519, Liberty 420, Paw Paw 353, Pleasant 439 and Waltz 218. Paw Paw Township Trustee, LuAnn Layman, separated her parcels this year, because she hurt herself financially last year by combining them so only one tax statement was sent per household. Parcels include mobile homes and late assessments. Liberty, Paw Paw and Pleasant Townships were each granted \$1,000. for level 2 education status. Council recessed at 7:30 p.m., and reconvened at 2:00 p.m. on 8/17 with all members attending. CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU: Trula Frank, director, is happy her job is now full time, and the 2000 tourism budget is \$72,664.36. Eight tour groups have visited Wabash Co. to date this year, and 3 groups are coming this weekend for driving tours, and the Dino concert at the Honeywell Center, whose various shows are the biggest draw. PROBATION: Tina Edwards asked that her office manager wages be elevated to that of a first deputy in the courthouse, and that the office secretary receive regular deputy pay. They are invaluable to her, and the office manager is bonded to handle funds. One officer has resigned and a new employee will begin soon, at the first year pay scale. Council tentatively elevated the office manager to 1st deputy wages, and the secretary, to half the difference between the regular deputy current wage and hers, plus 3%. ADULT PROBATION: Council approved #114 part time clerical at \$7.50 per hour for 25 hours a week. DIVISION OF FAMILY & CHILDREN: Marjorie Justice, director, may need additional funds for out of home placement, to get thru the rest of 1999. Her office is responsible for the costs of housing juveniles in detention facilities, although she has no input on where they're housed. Some are currently in a three month boot camp in Texas, that costs \$108. per day and doesn't accept IN medicaid. Marjorie's early intervention program works to retrain the family, so juveniles may be kept at home, and 63% of those service costs are reimbursable. She works hard to claim all reimbursements she can, to stay within her budget. The 2000 budget shows a zero tax levy, as it has for the last three years. Her staff of 18 has seen a big drop in the number of people on welfare over the last several years, and many of the still unemployed are long term hard core welfare recipients. COUNTY AGENT: Agent, Vince Harrell, is increasing #372, in preparation of going to a 3 year lease program for his computers, rather than purchasing. He projects it will save about \$800. over the 3 year period. His total budget, as requested, represents a 4% increase over 1999. Council thanked Vince for individually contacting them to explain his requests. COUNTY ASSESSOR: Assessor, Kelly Schenkel, noted new laws are stressing professionalism and continuing education. Her office uses their level 2 training constantly for real estate, while township assessors use it only for personal property. She asked for level 2 compensation of \$1,000. for Kay Hapner, and Leon moved to approve that request, second by Bob and passed by all. Paul pointed out that continuing education is a great benefit for employees, since it's during working hours, and expenses are covered by the county. Account 411 is up because the copy machine lease is up this year, and she either buys this one or leases a new one. BOARD OF REVIEW: Council agrees to \$75. per day for board members, an increase from \$50. CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES: Superior Court sees a 5-10% increase in pauper counsel costs each year. With state wages for judges remaining at \$90,000. next year, Bob moved to set the county supplemental wages at the maximum allowed of \$5,000. per judge, second by Rich, and passed. SHERIFF/JAIL: Tim Roberts says he's not currently having a deputy turnover problem, but state police just got an \$8,000. raise, and his men are about \$4,000. behind Wabash city police. Tim is losing jail officers to the new facility at Grissom, where the pay is higher. Tim's statistics show the jail roster is becoming increasingly violent. Council consensus is to give Sheriff dept. employees a 3% increase and jail employees more than 3%. Tim says his custodian does maintenance work, too. Jail # 364 includes a one time cost for a required fire suppression system, to bring the kitchen up to code, plus regular maintenance costs. Jail #311 is the increase requested by the contracted jail physician, and Tim noted a jail physician isn't easy to come by. Sheriff Roberts said lightning damage last week to communication equipment, should be covered by insurance, except for the \$5,000. deductible. He needs a new radio system, and has gotten estimates from Motorola and J & K Communications. Tim hopes to get the F.C.C. to grant him a new frequency, as Lake Co. is on his frequency, and is so powerful they interfere with his transmissions. Council told Tim to choose what best fits his needs, and ask for funding. AUDITOR: Plat book update # 114 was given a 5% increase, as that account has been unchanged since a contract from 1991. TREASURER: Account 393, bank services, is down because Ann now only

pays a service charge at Frances Slocum Bank. CO. HIGHWAY: Larry Rice asked Council to drop # 441 from \$17,000. to \$3,000, since the computer equipment has been purchased. The hourly range for truck drivers, equipment operators and sign foreman is \$8.76 to \$12.39. Mechanics range is \$8.76 to \$13.07 per hour and night watchman/laborer hourly is set from \$5.47 to 10.92. On-call engineering services will come from account 310 in the Local Rd. & St. budget. With no further business, Rich moved to adjourn, second by Bob, and passed.

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

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor