

County Auditor, Carol Stefanatos, called the meeting of the Wabash Co. Council to order at 8:00 A.M. with all members present. Selecting a Chairman and Vice Chairman was the first order of business, and Gary Nose nominated Robert Whitesel for chairman, second by Eugene Schenkel. Paul Sites moved to close the nominations, second by Gene, and passed. With 6 aye votes and Bob abstaining, Bob Whitesel is the chairman for 2000. Gary moved to appoint Leon Ridenour as the vice chairman, second by Gene. Rich Pepple moved to close the nominations, second by Paul, and passed by all on both motions. Mr. Whitesel took charge of the meeting. Minutes of the 12/6 meeting were approved as written, moved by Leon, second by Paul, and passed by all. Leon moved for board members to keep their appointments to other boards status quo, second by Rich, and passed. Leon moved to reappoint Phillip Mendenhall to the Alcoholic Beverage Board thru 2000, second by Gary, and passed. Learned from Sheriff Roberts, his phone service (including 911) was down for about 15 minutes on 1/24, as the motherboard failed. Rich moved to support the Commissioner decision to use Co. Corrections funds to purchase a new system from GTE under emergency conditions, second by Gene, and passed by all. Heard from State Representative, Bill Ruppel, that voting is scheduled today on (1) delaying reassessment for 4 years and (2) capping local government (state excluded) spending increases from year to year at 4%, down from the current 5% for state and local units. Ruppel also said taking welfare costs off property taxes would not be nearly as beneficial to our county as removing schools from property taxes.

Judicial Building project: Chris Johnston with Municipal Consultants, suggests a 2,225,000. bond issue, to be repaid by CEDIT funds semi-annually thru Jan. 2012. For optimum results the bonds will be advertised as being backed by property taxes, even though repayment is thru CEDIT. If only 1.4 million comes from Co. General funds, the surplus balance will increase by \$300,000., leaving a better emergency cushion. Terry Burnworth with Prince/Alexander Architects, suggests bid letting geared toward a May construction start, thus eliminating any payments in April when the Co. General fund is at its lowest point, a concern Ted Little voiced. Terry also said the county will only spend about \$300,000. from Co. General in 2000 for this project, and that much was encumbered from the 1999 budget. Bill Bradley, Wedcor director, says CEDIT funds should be tightest in 2003 due to prior commitments, but within his comfort level for unencumbered funds. Rich moved to revisit the tabled bond ordinance issue from the 11/10/99 special meeting, second by Gene, and passed by all. Rich moved to approve the bond ordinance to fund a new judicial building, second by Gene, and passed unanimously. Council members want frequent updates on unencumbered cash balances from the Auditor.

Additional Appropriation Ordinance I 2000

		AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	AYE	NAY
COUNTY GENERAL					
County Plan Commission					
391	Other Ser/Chgs (seminar fee for board members)	\$ 780.	\$ 150.	7	0
Council wants some funds to come from #323 (travel has \$630.) in the 300 series. Leon moved to approve an additional \$150. for account 391, second by Gary, and passed.					
County Commissioners					
119	Per Services (wage increase for animal assistants)	3120.	0.	7	0
Commissioners would support either a \$1.00 per hour increase for both full time and part time positions, or eliminate the part time position and increase full time pay. Gary moved for living within their current budget by increasing the full time wages and decreasing the part time hours, second by Paul, and passed by all to deny the request.					
Pleasant Township Assessor					
220	Supplies (Personal Property software)	500.	0.	2	5
Software compatible with Co. Assessor program. Special price of \$500. only for 45 days within Co. Assessor purchase time. Gary suggests payment from Co. Assessor budget, since it helps her, too. Ted noted he's voting nay to General Fund additional appropriations. Paul moved to approve as requested, second by Gene, but defeated with Ted, Leon, Rich, Gary and Bob voting nay.					
USER FEE					
Pre-Trial Diversion					
173	Per Services (employee insurance)	6000.	6000.	7	0
361	Other Ser/Chgs (repairs & maintenance)	4000.	4000.	7	0
Rich moved to approve both requests, second by Leon, and passed. Council wants investigator insurance coverage to continue from Pre-Trial Diversion in the future.					
HEALTH MAINTENANCE					
313	Other Ser/Chgs (buy flu & pneumonia serum)	7434.	7434	7	0
Funds from charging for these shots last year, to allow additional serum purchase. Leon moved to approve as requested, second by Ted, and passed by all.					
DRUG FREE COMMUNITY					
301	Other Ser/Chgs (Youth Service Bureau)	500.	500.	6	1
302	" (Youth Service Bureau)	500.	500.	6	1
303	" (Wabash City Schools)	1400.	1400.	6	1
304	" (Manchester Schools)	1400.	1400.	6	1
305	" (Wabash City Schools)	2000.	2000.	6	1
306	" (Step Ahead)	4230	4230	6	1
307	" (Otis Bowen Center)	6000.	6000.	6	1
308	" (Youth Service Bureau)	1000.	1000.	6	1
309	" (Court Program)	1500.	1500.	6	1
310	" (Court Program)	3000.	3000.	6	1
311	" (Wabash Co WASA)	10850.	10850.	6	1
Leon moved to approve as requested, second by Gary, and passed, with Rich abstaining. With no further business, Rich moved to adjourn, second by Leon, and passed.					

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

ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor