

County Council Chairman, Robert Whitesel, called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. with Richard Pepple absent due to illness. Leon Ridenour shared a prayer, and minutes of the 6/21 and 7/10 meetings were approved as written, moved by Paul Sites, second by Eugene Schenkel, and passed. Supervisors discussed wages with Council members, noting we have good employees we don't want to lose to higher paid jobs. Those who carry medical insurance thru the county saw a decrease in take home pay in 2000, due to increased insurance premiums. 70 of the 107 full time employees carry the insurance, and pay 25% while the county pays 75%. The county workforce is smaller than most surrounding counties, and employees should be rewarded for doing a fine job. Ted Little spoke with Mr. Harshbarger at Manchester College, who says the June to June cost of living is 3.7%, while DMG Maximus recommended a 3.5% increase. Commissioner, Darle Dawes, said due to cost of living and insurance increases, they recommend a 5% increase, while most elected officials requested an across the board \$1500. increase. Sheriff Roberts requests vary from 9 to 15% increases for sheriff and jail employees, and the highway requests are about 5%. The Council will make a wage decision tomorrow, and act on only the 200,300 and 400 accounts today. Commissioner: Don Metz and Dean Eppley, representing the Historical Museum Board, asked for \$50,000. from this budget to support the new museum. The City of Wabash donated the building and a benefactor and Build Indiana funds will cover renovation costs. The facility is expected to open in Mid 2001. Volunteers are cataloging the current inventory, but a staff will be needed for the transition, and forward. Commissioner, Lester Templin, thinks the county has a commitment to the museum and transition costs. Ted, along with other Council members want a valid budget, before they commit to \$50,000. E-911: WKUZ has doubled the tower rent for 911 equipment to \$360. a month, effective 1/2001. Sandi Beeks goes for reverse 911 training the end of the month. Sheriff: Asking for a 2nd transportation officer due to an increase in civil process papers and transports of incarcerated people for appeals hearings. Tim needs to purchase three new vehicles in 2001, and wants to buy them rather than the lease/purchase method used in 2000 for three vehicles. He usually hires TransCorp for extraditing males, but it's cheaper to send his own people for females, and since extraditions are up, so is his account #324. Jail: Asking for an additional dispatcher for 2001, peak needs are 8:00 p.m. till 3:00 a.m. He's looking into a centralized dispatch system for the county. He's requesting the same pay for his court security officer as the assistant jail commander, and feels #117 should be the same wages as the court security officer. The jail needs significant repair work and he included an estimate to explain #361. Prosecutor: Has taken over the Victim Assistance program, and has added several line items related to that to his budget. He gets a \$26,000. grant plus the county share of \$10,000. He may decide the job is part time, rather than full time as in the past. #112 is the chief deputy and gets \$41,000. from the state along with the \$4,486. from the county in 2000. #113 is the deputy prosecutor who works about 36 hours a week. In 2001 all his wages will come from the Prosecutor budget because the Pre-trial Diversion budget is in the red. Mr. Plummer says his secretaries have 40 hour work weeks and get less time off. He's asking the same pay for them as court personnel get for 35 hour work weeks. IV-D: The state reimburses \$22,943. to the county for this program, anything budgeted above that amount, gets reimbursed to the county at 66%. Pre-trial Diversion income averages about \$33,000., so he's cut that budget significantly for 2001. Health Department: # 118 will be used for a part-time nurse at \$14.25 per hour plus additional technical help at \$10.00 per hour during flu shot season. Circuit & Superior Courts: Security in the new building is a # 1 priority to the judges, and each are asking for 2 full time security guards, one for each floor and two at the entrance. They shared a video of court building violence. Security equipment should be like that at airports, and no security system works without people to monitor it. Security people should be special deputies of the Sheriff, and be trained like new deputies. Training could be done in the courthouse after the first of the year, so they're ready for the move. Account 440 in both budgets is for a video arraignment system, digital recording equipment for court reporters and for miscellaneous equipment for the new facility. David Magley and Jon McDonald attended in support of the judges requests. Sheriff Roberts thinks it would be hard to get qualified personnel without offering full time work and benefits. Darle thinks there is funding in the project for wiring & electrical set-up for a security system, but not for the equipment itself. Emergency Management: Overall budget is a 1% increase, while wages are a 3.5% increase. Council recessed until Tuesday.

Tuesday, August 22, 2000. Bob reconvened the Council at 1:30 with Rich absent and Leon sharing a prayer.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE VI 2000

	Amount Requested	Amount Approved	Aye	Nay
E-911				
325 Other Ser/Chgs (12 phone lines for Reverse 911)	\$ 3,500.	\$ 3,500.	6	0
Reverse 911 warns the public of emergencies. Emergency Management has raised \$24,000. in donations for equipment & installation from local industry, and legislation now allows phone lines to be funded thru E-911 funds. This will be an on going yearly cost. Leon moved to approve the request, second by Ted, and passed.				
COUNTY GENERAL				
Sheriff				
441 Capital Outlay ( toward a new vehicle)	10,000.	0.	6	0
The Sheriff withdrew the request, doesn't think he'll need the money.				

2001 wages: After discussion, Paul moved to approve a \$900. increase for 35 hours a week, \$1000. for 40 hours a week and 3.4% increase for part time hourly, second by Gene, and passed. Budget hearings followed. Convention & Visitors Bureau: Trula projects 2001 income at \$90,887.94. She gave Council a copy of the new promotional video, and expects 8 tour groups thru the county before year's end. Council accepted her budget. Weights & Measures: Council approved a 3.4% wage increase. Clerk: Her budget is down because there aren't elections next year. Probation: Tina just hired a new officer 8/21 to replace a 12 year employee who resigned. CEDIT: Bill Bradley estimates \$104,789. increase in total revenue from 2000 to 2001, and attributes it to a strong economy. Interest payments on the "spec" building will end in July of 2001. There are still enquiries, but no sale, yet. Township Trustee/Assessor: Assessments for the same individual must be combined now, so that affects the formula used over the last few years for wages. Council settled on a 3.4% increase for these positions. Soil & Water Conservation District: Barry Eppley and J.P. Mattern updated Council on district projects and spoke of the value of their secretary, who's wages come from the county. Council gave her a \$900. increase based on a 35 hour work week. County Agent: Vince Harrell and Sam Unger presented their 2001 budget. Council will finalize the budget at the Sept. 11th meeting set for 8:00 A.M. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_