

County Auditor, Carol Stefanatos, called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with Paul Sites absent. She requested nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2002. Ted Little moved to re-appoint Gary Nose as Chair, second by Joann Rauh and Eugene Schenkel moved to re-appoint Leon Ridenour as Vice Chair, second by Ted, Gene then moved to close the nominations, second by Rich Pepple, all motions passed. Gary took charge of the meeting and Leon shared a prayer. Minutes of the 1/7 meeting were approved as written, moved by Ted, second by Leon, and passed. Rich moved to re-appoint George Airgood as Council representative to the Alcoholic Beverage Board for 2002, second by Gene, and passed. A large group discussed ambulance service funding woes including: Council, Commissioners, Wabash mayor, fire chief and deputy chief; Manchester Council and town manager and Life-Med owner plus one employee. Wabash City covers about 2/3 of the county and 75% of the population. With ten employees per shift, they can't increase their coverage, the county needs two services. Original agreement with county was a subsidy that covered the cost of three employees. Now, with benefits, that figure is \$57,000. per employee. They're asking for \$150,000. plus a signed contract, although service won't be interrupted during negotiations. They've received \$100,000. for the last 5 years. They provide top notch service with 13 paramedics and 18 EMT's. All their fire fighters are required to become EMT's within one year of employment, they're going to train two more paramedics this year. Mayor Copeland says the city fire budget is 3 million, with 80% of that used for paramedic services, 50% of which is in the county. Basic runs are \$150., with paramedic services runs at \$300. plus supplies. Copeland's secretary does their billing, and collections are well above the national average of 72%, and the city accepts medicare and medicaid assignments. Life-Med began service in 1985, did most area hospital to hospital transfers between 1993 and 1999 to subsidize their income. That's not available to them any longer. They don't accept medicare or medicaid assignments. Medicare froze those rates in 1984, allowing only cost of living increases since then. County subsidizes Life-Med too, 77,500. plus an additional \$22,500. in 2001. The town of North Manchester used CEDIT funds last year, plus contributions from Peabody, Timbercrest and Manchester College brought the Life-Med subsidy to \$150,000. for 2001. They need \$200,000. to stay in business this year. Life-Med responded to about 400 non emergency calls and 900, 911 calls in 2001. Their collection rate is about 62%. Manchester and the county budgets' are at maximum level, they'd like to impose a user fee (tax) of some kind, maybe a charge on monthly phone bills, that would be dedicated to ambulance service. Those attending will research options. Hamilton County has had an EMS levy for several years, but the county must impose a tax like that. City residents already pay for the service, and Copeland won't have them double taxed. While the county isn't required to provide ambulance service, Manchester costs to start a service would run \$850,000., and quotes from other services to cover the northern part of the county exceed the Life-Med \$200,000. request. Joann suggested the county grant an additional \$25,000. to each service for 2002, Ted suggested an additional \$50,000. for each entity, but there wasn't a vote on either proposal. Leon asked if the county can afford the increases. Council asked Commissioners to proceed with contract negotiations, while funding sources are researched. Council signed Resolution 2002-I, in support of an engineering study of needs to upgrade Servia water. After addressing the additional appropriation requests, the meeting adjourned.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE I - 2002

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	AYE	NAY
COUNTY GENERAL				
County Election Board				
371 Other Services/Charges (poll rent)	\$ 1,000.	\$ 1,000.	6	0
376 Other Services/Charges (poll janitor)	250.	250.	6	0
Needed for election, omitted from 2002 budget. Joann moved to approve both requests as presented, second by Gene, and passed.				
Emergency Management				
111 Personal Services (director wages)	12,580.	0.	6	0
Mike Shrider and Shirley Minnick, representing Emergency Planning Board, asked for the increase. Additional responsibilities for director now, more time needed, about 30 hours a week, it's not yet a full time position. Fulton, Miami and Whitley counties have full time directors, plus benefits. Council feels no raise for a new director, submit for raise in 2003 budget. Rich moved to deny request, Joann second, and passed to deny.				
COUNTY HEALTH				
217 Supplies (nurse medicines for 2002)	10,065.	10,065.	6	0
From 2001 fees for flu and pneumonia shots (\$8,483.) and T.B. tests (\$1,582.). Rich moved approval as requested, second by Leon, and passed.				
COUNTY HIGHWAY Administration				
1361 Other Services/Charges (building electrical)	10,100.	10,100.	6	0
To upgrade electrical service in the 4-H side of the highway barn. Currently 100 amp. service, will upgrade to 400 amp. service for safety. 4-H fair board has lights to donate after upgrade. Ted moved approval as requested, second by Gene, and passed.				
CEDIT				
372 Other Services/Charges (const. loan)	500,000.	0.		
Tabled for now, no vote taken.				
404 Capital Outlay (Servia water)	3,000.	3,000.	6	0
Local share of \$30,000. grant for engineering study of needs to upgrade water system. Water quality and capacity is good, but pressure is low and 4 inch wells should be enlarged to 6 to 8 inch wells. Current wells are on private property, less than 200 feet from septic systems, and not enclosed to meet IDEM standards. Joann moved to approve as requested, second by Gene, and passed.				
DRUG FREE COMMUNITY				
301 Other Services/Charges	500.	500.	6	0
302 " " "	1,000.	1,000.	6	0
305 " " "	500.	500.	6	0
306 " " "	1,000.	1,000.	6	0
307 " " "	8,000.	8,000.	6	0
310 " " "	4,000.	4,000.	6	0
311 " " "	7,500.	7,500.	6	0
312 " " "	6,000.	6,000.	6	0
313 " " "	3,750.	3,750.	6	0
314 " " "	3,750.	3,750.	6	0
Funds for various local entities (police, Bowen Center, family nurturing, youth services and program administration) fighting substance abuse. Requests approved by WASA (Working Against Substance Abuse), according to director, Beth Miller. They're more strict now in awarding grants, requirements must be met and substantiated. Joann moved approval as requested, second by Leon, and passed.				
JUDICIAL BOND				
421 Capital Outlay (const. payments)	500,000.	0.		
Commissioners requested loan proposals for \$ 500,000. to complete the judicial building project, from all local banks. Council voted to remove \$500,000. of County General funds from the building account last fall. Wells Fargo and Wab. Co Farm Bureau Credit Union were the only responses. Wells Fargo quoted 4.5% interest for a loan and FBCU quoted 6.1% for a line of credit. Council wants more specifics on quotes, suggested requesting quotes again and told Auditor to continue to pay project claims from unappropriated county general. Commissioners and Joann don't think quotes should be re-done, since some banks responded. The request was tabled.				

/s/ Gary Nose /s/ Leon Ridenour /s/ Richard Pepple
 /s/ Ted Little /s/ Joann Rauh /s/ Eugene Schenkel

ATTEST: _____
 Carol Stefanatos, Auditor