

Wabash County Council Chairman, Gary Nose, called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with all members present. Leon Ridenour shared a prayer. Minutes of the 3/25 meeting were approved with an added correction, moved by Joann Rauh, second by Eugene Schenkel, and passed, with Richard Pepple abstaining. The added correction is that the Council will hold an emergency meeting after they receive additional information from the Auditor's office, as requested. Council members discussed the county's financial situation. Rich asked what happened to requested reports and special meeting, Gary saw no reason to call a special meeting without reports, Auditor understood Ted would contact her office to verify what information the Council wanted, and Ted thought the Auditor knew what he wanted. Ted thought claims weren't to be paid, except wages and benefits, before a special meeting, but since they were, he thought a meeting was a moot point. Ted thinks it's poor business to run in the red, and unfair to the taxpayers. Council feels they're wasting their time, if their recommendations are ignored. Commissioner, Darle Dawes, feels once Council has approved a budget, it's difficult to disallow a department claim. He also reminded of a recent department's mandate, won in court. Ted presented a budget spreadsheet for Council review and suggestions. He wants each department to track their monthly expenses. Ted noted Council has no control over how budgeted money is spent, but they certainly can control the next budget. Jeannie Wooley with Verizon and Sandi Beeks E-911 coordinator, told Council that Verizon has notified all 911 counties they serve, of an immediate increase in service fees. According to an audit by Verizon, former owner GTE, omitted mandatory tariff charges in Indiana, called special access lines' rates. Rather than itemizing all circuits, only routers were listed. Since the county has a contract effective until 2004, our monthly charges will only increase from \$4099. to \$6891., without a contract our costs would exceed \$8000. per month. Jeannie says Verizon will increase the rates whether or not the county signs the "notice of intent" letter sent to Sandi. Verizon provides primary service to about 30 counties and secondary service to 32 counties in Indiana. Jeannie encouraged the county to challenge this edict, and Council agreed Commissioners should contest, and look for a new vendor. Commissioner Brian Hauptert, asked Jeannie to provide him with a list of all Indiana counties who contract with GTE/Verizon. Ted asked Jeannie to learn if any state collects funds for ambulance services thru a phone surcharge. Council wants the Commissioner's attorney to review the letter and respond with a challenge. Council discussed a letter they received, alleging administrative over charges by the county's current medical insurance provider. Commissioners plan to meet with our agent. Life-Med owner, Chris Brown, told Council members he needs to know if they will approve additional funding to keep his business going. His problems stem from two changes; (1) a five year medicaid program that began this month, requiring him to accept Medicaid assignments and (2) contracts with other hospitals that subsidized his business, are no longer available. Brown's line of credit is nearly exhausted, he can't continue much longer. Gary talked with Bruce Hartman at the State Board of Accounts, who said the St. Board wouldn't contest the legality of a user fee supported by an attorney, unless the case went to court. Hartman said if the county can't afford the ambulance service, then get out of the business, since the county isn't required to provide this service and should live within it's means. Wabash Co. taxes are at maximum levy, so there's no room for an increase, and Ted said all counties who subsidize ambulance services, do so thru property tax collections. Leon moved to adjust the monthly payments to Life-Med to \$10,625., as if the additional \$50,000. had been approved, using \$127,500. as the annual total, and dividing that by 12 months, second by Ted, and passed, with Rich voting nay. This payment is to be continued until the original funds are depleted, or sufficient funds are available for the additional appropriation. Chris Brown says he needs \$200,000. to stay in business, so this won't help. Ted says this decision will help in the short term, and give the Town of North Manchester guidance to proceed with funding from their end. There wasn't a Council motion today to approve the additional \$50,000. for the ambulance service. Council approved leaving CAGIT rates at \$.01 and CEDIT rates at \$.0025 thru June 2003. After addressing the additional appropriation requests for this meeting, Rich moved to adjourn, second by Gene, and passed.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IV 2002

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	AYE	NAY
COUNTY GENERAL				
Plan Commission				
501 Revolving Fund (raze Lagro buildings)	\$7,700.	0.	6	1
Two dangerous buildings need razed. One might be burned, although there are risk and liability concerns. Have estimates of \$3900. for one and \$4200. for the other from Eads Bulldozing, the low bidder. Recorder's records show one property was deeded to the lender, and foreclosure was begun on the other, but not followed thru. Incorporated towns fall under the county ordinance unless they have their own, Lagro doesn't, and Chad Dilling, Plan Commissioner, and Ted remember Lagro doesn't have funds to cover costs. Larry Thrush, Planning Board attorney, says funds might be reclaimed by placing a judgement against the property, or by certifying the costs to the Auditor so it could be added to the property taxes as a delinquency. Rich moved to deny the request, second by Paul, and passed with Ted voting nay.				

Amend Superior Court 144

119 Personal Services part time security help, hourly	12.00	12.00	6	1
Budgeted for substitute court reporter and bailiff uses, Judge Sposeep asked approval to use these funds for part time security help at \$12.00 per hour. This would allow full time security officers compensatory time off. Part time workers will be off duty or retired Sheriff and police officers. April has seen 3500 thru security, with over 400 weapons detected including 2 loaded guns, 300 knives, box cutters, mace and other items. Nine arrests have been made within the building, since it opened. Paul moved to approve using the budgeted \$7280. for part time security help, second by Ted, and passed, with Gary voting nay.				

/s/ Gary Nose /s/ Leon Ridenour /s/ Richard Pepple /s/ Eugene Schenkel
/s/ Paul Sites /s/ Joann Rauh /s/ Ted Little ATTEST: _____
Carol Stefanatos, Auditor