February 24, 2003

Council Chairman, Paul Sites, called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with Joann Rauh absent. Eugene Schenkel arrived late and didn't vote on the first four additional appropriation requests. Leon Ridenour shared a prayer, and minutes of the 1/6 meeting were approved as written, moved by Ted Little, second by Richard Pepple, and passed. Upon the recommendation of the library board, Gary Nose moved to appoint Ashley Cordes to the Roann Paw Paw Township Public Library Board, second by Eugene Schenkel, and passed. Ms Cordes' four year term will run thru 2/20/07, and she replaces Pamela Ford, who completes her term. Leon moved to approve Resolution 2003 -II, which excludes the Solid Waste District from County Adjusted Gross Income Taxes (CAGIT) for 2004, and until Council revokes this resolution, second by Gene, and passed. Council told Sheriff, Leroy Striker, his wages can't be changed for this year, as per IC: 36-2-5-13, but could be addressed for next year's budget. Ted learned Whitley Co. and Huntington Co. have contracts with their Sheriff's, at $79,000. and $64,000. respectively. Ted says based on last year's figures, a contract at $85,000. as proposed by Striker, would have saved about $8,000.00 for the county. An increase in the cost of food, or the legislated cost per inmate per meal could negate any savings. Council discussed re-assessment and tax payments with Co. Assessor, Kelly Schenkel, Treasurer, LuAnn Layman and Auditor, Carol Stefanatos. Kelly reports Accurate Assessments, the firm hired to do the re-assessment, haven't completed the commercial properties in Wabash and North Manchester, but they will be done by March 4th. Accurate will then do the equalization of assessments throughout the townships, at a cost of $16,000. to $20,000. The state gives final approval of equalization. Kelly plans to skip the 45 day appeals process, instead, holding informal hearings with business and industry to check for assessing errors. Next, the Auditor gets tax rates approved by the state, then the Treasurer gets the statements printed and mailed. Council asks that each department make an effort to cut the timetable for their respective processes. Council wants the process completed as promptly and accurately as possible, even if it means not adhering to the law. Council asked Kelly to see if she could arrange a meeting today with Accurate Assessments, but they were out of town. Commissioner, Brian Haupert, says taxes deadlines are going to be late, regardless of extra effort, and the county will have to borrow funds to keep afloat. Auditor, Carol Stefanatos, reports the Co. General balance as of 2/21/03 is $749,967.88. The first loan will likely come from one of the highway budgets. Ted, again, asked Commissioners to get the Co. Farm appraised, as it's an asset not generating any income, and he would like to know its value.

CEDIT tax increase hearing: WEDCOR director, Chris Martin, says CEDIT collections are based on estimates submitted by July 1st of the prior year. After discussion, and learning none of the public in attendance were dissenting, Leon moved to approve Ordinance 2003 - II, which increases the CEDIT tax rate from .25% to .50 % effective July 1, 2003, second by Gene, and passed, with Rich voting nay. The increase is to offset the loss of revenue from recision of the inventory tax. The increased distribution is to be used to increase the percentage of the homestead credit allowed. After addressing the additional appropriation requests, Rich moved to adjourn, second by Gene, and passed.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE II

		AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	AYE	NAY
	County General Commissioners				
174 Personal Services	(Sheriff Pension)	$ 10,224.	$ 10,224.	5	0

For November and December 2003 civil services. Sheriff due $12.00 for each service of civil papers. Fees collected by Co. Clerk. Ted moved to appropriate these funds into the Sheriff Pension Fund, second by Rich, and passed.

	Probation				
111 Personal Services	(Probation chief wages)	4,508.	4,508.	3	2

Probation chief, Dallas Duggan, reports the judges recommend the increase to bring his salary in line with a state pay schedule. The additional funds this year, will come from Adult Probation User Fees, and be appropriated into this account. Former probation chief, Tina Willey, was paid the first of the year for accrued vacation and sick time, which depleted this account. There's $67,515.99 in the Adult User fee account. Rich moved to approve as requested, second by Ted, and passed, with Gary and Leon voting nay. Ted moved to approve the Amended Wages form 144, second by Gary, and passed.

	E-911				
412 Capital Outlay	(communications upgrade)	850.	850.	5	0

To upgrade communications equipment for Lagro/Lincolnville area emergency responders. Total cost is $1850. and account has $1,000.00. Gary moved approval as requested, second by Ted, and passed.

	ADULT PROBATION				
111 Personal Services	(Probation chief wages)	4,508.	4,508.	3	2

Take funds from this account to appropriate into the Probation account for wages. Ted moved approval as requested, second by Rich, and passed with Gary and Leon voting nay.

211 Supplies	(WASA grant for vests)	784.	784.	5	0

Funds have been awarded by WASA, need appropriated into an account. Gary moved to approve as requested, second by Leon, and passed.

	USER FEE/PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION				
116 Personal Services	(2nd quarter funding)	4,802.50	4,802.50	6	0
171 Personal Services	(2nd quarter funding)	341.	341.	6	0
173 Personal Services	(insurance)	9,564.75	9,564.75	4	2

Rich moved to approve funding for the second quarter, second by Leon, and passed. Insurance item is for a secretary for the second quarter and deputy Prosecutor, David Magley, for the entire year. Prosecutor, Bill Hartley, says Magley is an appointed employee and is eligible according to the health coverage guidelines, even though he is a part-time employee. These guidelines don't coincide with the county employee manual, which indicates only full time employees are eligible. Magley has been accepted by the carrier. Commissioner attorney, Tom Mattern and local agent, Allen Miracle, think Magley should be covered, rather than face a possible lawsuit. Gene moved to approve line item 173 as requested, second by Ted, and passed, with Gary and Rich voting nay.

	CEDIT				
394 Other Services/Charges	(City ambulance)	100,000.	100,000.	6	0
395 Other Services/Charges	(county ambulance)	127,500.	127,500.	6	0

Monthly payments go to both entities. An additional $50,000. will have to be appropriated for the city, as their contract is $150,000.00. Council still hopes to devise an alternate method of funding the ambulance service. Rich moved to approve both requests, second by Gene, and passed.

	COUNTY CORRECTIONS				
362 Other Services/Charges	(Havel repairs bill)	7,850.68	7,850.68	6	0

Havel Brothers, Ft. Wayne, has credited the county for payments, and this amount will clear the account for HVAC work last year. Gene moved approval as requested, second by Ted, and passed.

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