Wabash Co. Council Chairman, Paul Sites called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with Richard Pepple absent. Leon Ridenour shared a prayer and minutes of the 7/28 meeting were approved as written, moved by Eugene Schenkel, second by Ted Little, and passed. Council hope to find department heads made requested cuts of 5%. Ted reports his comparison of 200 and 300 accounts for 2003 and 2004 indicte those accounts are about as low as they can go. He says about \$170,000. must be cut for an operating balance of 1 million as of January 2005, and there's about enough to cut from the 400 accounts to meet that. Ted noted the new Cumulative Capital Development fund will generate funds this year. Gary Nose & Leon would like a 1.3 million balance, as we had the first of this year. Joann Rauh noted most departments asked for 2.2% wage increases. Council directed the Auditor, Carol Stefanatos, to apply for an excess levy for next year, even though it usually isn't granted two years in succession. PLAN COMMISSION: director, Chad Dilling says the new permit fees have generated about \$10,500. to date, mostly from special exceptions, variances and subdivision plats. The application numbers are consistent with prior years, and he hasn't had many complaints about the fee. Wages are a 3% increase, and his mileage request is down. He will eliminate an annual trip to review progress where permits have been issued. Ted commented the purpose of the permit fees was to generate money for the revolving loan account, and thought Chad should have requested \$5,000. for that line item. Chad didn't request it since Council asked for budget cuts, but could get an additional appropriation request in 2004, as the funds collected go into Co. General. CO. TREASURER: LuAnn Layman feels she has cut her budget as much as possible. She asked for a 2.2% wage increase for her department. She settled with Hayes/Lemerez on their delinquent taxes, and they paid all but the 10% delinquency fee which is forgiven in bankruptcy cases. CO. RECORDER: Nancy Gribben asked for a 2.2% wage increase in her office, and her budget is what she feels she needs to operate. Ted asked about her plans for the \$190,000. in her Recorder Perpetuation Fund. She's having computer demonstrations and plans to have the office computerized by April 2004. Nancy estimates \$120,000. for the hardware and software, with installation costs above that. She uses her fund for miscellaneous things now, and doesn't need Council approval to spend it for the preservation of records and the improvement of record keeping equipment. Gary thinks expenses from the Recorder's 200 and 300 accounts could come from her perpetuation fund. Ted agrees at least the 200's. DIVISION OF FAMILY & CHILDREN: Margery Justice reports there is a new fund this year for Children's Psychiatric Residential Treatment. It will have a separate tax levy effective 1/04, with a rate of .0131 per hundred of assessed value. The budget, set by the state is \$114,375.00, and there is no local control of its use. She will be notified when a bill is due. Her Welfare Family/Children budget is \$2,446, 000.00. Neither of her budgets come from Co. General funds. Her department has been meeting weekly with the Probation department to coordinate placements. CIRCUIT COURT CLERK: Lori Draper asked for 5% wage increases. The state says it's okay to use her Clerk Perpetuation funds to pay a part time hourly employee to micro film her records, so that \$5,000. may be removed from her Clerk's budget. Line item #114 in her Voter Registration budget may be cut in half to \$3500.00, since she hopes to cover that position internally after Helen Wenger's retirement. The newly mandated voting machines for the blind and handicapped are required by 2006, although the plan isn't yet approved. There must be one at each voting place. The state has funds to help defray the cost, and they are divided on a first come basis, with the state deciding how much each county gets. It sounds like counties with punch card systems will be helped the most. Wabash Co. is on the tier B priority list. Lori may combine precincts wherever it's convenient, with maybe only one in both Wabash and North Manchester. None of the Microvote counties (including Wabash Co.) have signed a contract, but once a contract is signed the county may apply for assistance. Concensus of Council and Lori is to hold off purchasing for now. Following a lunch break, Council addressed the Additional Appropriation and Transfer requests. See below at the conclusion of the minutes. COMMISSIONER BUDGETS: Commissioner's didn't request a wage increase for themselves, but requested 2.2% for those within their budgets. They cut charitable contributions by 5% to the Council on Aging, Association of Retarded Citizens, 4-H, Soil & Water Conservation District and the Museum Foundation. A 5% cut to the Bowen Center would give them \$116,284. Gary asked why not a 10% cut to these parties. In answer to Ted's question about wages, Commissioners, Les Templin and Darle Dawes feel county employees have been hit hard the last three years, and hope an increase is possible. Paul suggested it might be time to take bids for the various insurance policies if it hasn't been done recently. Brian Haupert has talked with Senator Doc Dillon about pushing for a Cumulative Ambulance tax. Commissioner's say Memorial Hall will have to have windows replaced, possible electrical work and redecorating done before Probation may move there. The balance of the building loan will be spent on heating/cooling connection to the courthouse system. SHERIFF, JAIL, E-911: Leroy Striker asked for 2.2% wage increases. The Dept. of Corrections says he must have a minimum of two jail officers on duty at any time, so he has asked for 8 jail officers, up one from 2003. He has moved the transport officer to the jail budget, and uses them for court security and a jail officer when they don't have transport obligations. He is using Commissary funds whenever possible, and will buy video conferencing equipment with it. This will cut the need for inmates to appear in court for initial hearings. Leroy questioned continuing the reverse 911 system at a cost of \$6,000. per year for phone lines. It has been used in a simulated disaster exercise this summer and proved about 10% effective, in his opinion. It has never been used in a real emergency. The equipment was initially purchased by local business and industry, and should warn many people in a short time, if they're home and answer their phones. Many use answering machines, or note on their caller ID it's the Sheriff's department calling. The 911 contract with Verizon will need renewed next year, which will likely mean a cost increase. In answer to Ted's question about court security, Leroy says it's needed. He noted court bailiffs were the security in the past and could be again with training. He has equipped the judges with tazer guns and has trained Judge Sposeep in usage. The same could be done with bailiffs. Leroy says the major cost of a central dispatch system would be set up of existing equipment in a new location. It would take some time, maybe even beyond June of 2004. The newly formed committee will meet again in September after gathering additional information. PROSECUTOR, IV-D, PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION: William Hartley asked for 5% wage increases. He says the IV-D program is reimbursed at 66% after an up front contribution from the state of \$30,595. He receives a \$16,000. grant for the required Victim's Assistance program. Hartley thinks court security is necessary. He feels safer knowing the room full of people to his back have passed thru security. PROBATION, ADULT & JUVENILE PROBATION, DRUG & ALCOHOL, ELECTRONIC MONITORING: Dallas Duggan thinks some funds from his Adult Probation (\$81,569.69. as of 8/5/03) and Drug & Alcohol (\$144,914.79) may be used to renovate Memorial Hall for Probation. A new administrative fee effective 7/1/03 is to supplement the newly mandated wage schedule for probation officers. He hasn't increased the number of officers, and hasn't filled a part time clerical position. He cut item # 361 in the Probation budget for service contracts from \$8,734. to \$2800.00. CO. EXTENSION: Nancy Radabaugh and Teresa Witkoske report the office is in a transition period with the retirement of Vince Harrell and the resignation of a part time employee. The budget includes a 2.2% wage increase. Line item #311 (\$25,580.) is for a contract with Purdue University for 1 1/2 educators. Two full time educators would run \$43,078.75 for 2004, up about \$10,000. from 2003. Nancy, the youth agent would be full time with a possible agriculture agent sharing time between two counties. Item # 323 (travel) is an increase from \$1568. to \$2500.00, as Vince gave up his mileage for 2003. Purdue is working to lower their costs by offering early retirement packages, and replacing with new employees at lower wages and fewer benefits. Council reconvened at 9:00 A.M. on the 26th. CORONER: Marilyn McDonald didn't ask for a wage increase. She will ask her deputies to pay their own membership fees. CO. ASSESS-OR, BD. OF REVIEW, CUMULATIVE REAPPRAISAL: Kelly Schenkel asked for 2.2% wage increases. She has over \$5,000. in her Sales Disclosure Perpetuation fund, but she is limited in what it can be spent for. She may use some of it for expenses to determine figures are accurate on disclosure forms. Kelly says the reassessment firm, Accurate Assessments, say they have done their job well, if corrections stay within 3% of the total number of assessments. The Auditor says the current figure for corrections of errors (C E's) is \$264,000.00. C E's are figured in the December settlement, with the amounts deducted from each taxing unit before payments are made to the units. Kelly says aerial photo's haven't been done since the mid 80's, and there have been many changes. Gary suggested she talk with the Soil & Water Conservation District about sharing the cost of updates. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Bob Brown has requested the position be moved to full time, and reminds wages are reimbursed at 50%. So far this year he has logged 810 hours

Homeland Security. He says all surrounding counties have full time EMA directors, while some counties have combined the EMA and Plan Commissions into one full time position. In answer to Paul's question about grant subsidies for wages, Bob says they usually don't allow usage for wages. The current \$56,000. grant will be used for HAZMAT equipment, a storage trailer and prime mover (vehicle), which will replace the current leased vehicle, and be used for multiple uses. SURVEYOR, DRAINAGE BOARD, SURVEYOR PERPETUATION FUND: Cheryl Slee asked a 2.2% increase for drainage positions except Commissioner wages which didn't increase. She didn't request a wage increase for herself, as surveyor. She asked for a larger increase for one deputy, and won't fill the other deputy position thru next year. She noted a newly elected surveyor might fill the position, so Council shouldn't eliminate it. She noted her 100 accounts are down \$2200. from 2003. CO. HIGHWAY, CUMU-LATIVE BRIDGE, LOCAL ROAD & STREET: Larry Rice asked for \$1,000. across the board, except the assistant supervisor, where he requested \$2500.00. He reports he will need additional funds from Rd. & St. for the Old 15 S project, as costs have risen since the early 90's. Crews finished chip & seal work yesterday, and will begin berming. There are 24.5 miles of gravel road in the county. SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT: Adam Jones and Barry Eppley noted they serve the county landowners. They have focused on waterway installations the last few years. They continue education programs for youth and adults, and appreciate the county support thru Adam's wages and the Commissioner contribution. They asked a 5% wage increase, and have applied to the Nat'l Resources Conservation Services for supplemental wage funds. Responding to a Council question, Kelly Schenkel, noted township assessors don't do real estate, only personal property. She thinks office rent should be the same, as long as their home is their office. NOBLE TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR: Brenda Conner asked for wage increases of 2.2% for her department that has its office in the courthouse. LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR/TRUSTEE: Larry Manning says he received his Level II accreditation, and has requested the required \$1,000. supplement for 2004. The advanced training covers all facets of assessing, but may focus on real estate issues. CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU: Trula Frank's budget is funded by a 5% Innkeepers tax. Her budget is down from 2003, as is her income. There are 6 contributors of the tax in the county, plus Manchester College for some retreats and summer camps. Her office relocated to the new museum in May 2003. WEIGHTS & MEASURES: Joe Vogel became the director July 15th. He said former director, Phil Van Baalen, kept great records, and shared that information with Joe, along with considerable training. Joe feels the job is important for verifying the citizens of Wabash Co. are getting correct weights and measures. Every thing must be tested annually, with spot checks quarterly. CEDIT: Chris Martin & David Rutledge shared the new promotional video. They have placed adds in national magazines, and there are new signs at Wabash's two Industrial Parks, and will be one in No. Manchester soon. They have closed on their first Revolving Fund loan of \$20,000.00, and have applied for, and received, a matching grant from the state for up to \$50,000.00. CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURTS: Both Judge Vanderpool and Judge Sposeep proposed budgets that decrease by 5% and include a \$1,000. wage increase for their employees. In answer to Paul's question, both judges are experimenting with sharing Verizon internet services with the Co. Clerk, in an effort to cut costs. The books, CD's and subscriptions purchased yearly are used by judges, attorneys, inmates and the general public. They will soon have inter net access for use by the general public. The Sheriff's plan for video conferencing will help with initial hearings, but for trials and sentencing, the defendant must be in court. Gary noted that about 35% of both budgets involve pauper expenses. The judges agree, but are required to provide representation for those who can't pay themselves. Local attorney, Kristina Lynn, strongly supports the need for court security, and feels she represents the opinion of the Bar Association as a whole. She spends a great deal of time in the Judicial Center, and feels safer because of the security. CO. HEALTH & HEALTH MAINTENANCE: Dr. Gifford, Co. Health officer, says he will work for no wages if that will help Council with their budget woes. Council tentatively set the clerical hourly wages for 2004 at \$5.95 to \$9.65. Ted moved to keep longevity at 1/4 of 1% of the current wage, times the number of years worked to a maximum of $\bar{20}$ years, beginning with the third year of employment. Beginning with 2004, Probation officers will be excluded from longevity, as allowed by the 2003 law, Senate Bill 506, that mandates wages for probation officers. Joann seconded Ted's motion, and it passed. The meeting recessed at 10:00 P.M.

on a 700 hour per year job. Last year he logged 1500 hours in his first year as director. Bob thinks this job deserves full time status due to increased requirements thru

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE VIII

AMOUNT AMOUNT AYE NAY REQUESTED APPROVED

CUMULATIVE BRIDGE

\$ 7,500. \$ 7,500. 3314 Other Services/Charges (Br. 208 engineering) The bridge is over the railroad (RR) on Old 24 W . The RR must review the engineer plans, and charge a \$7500. fee to do so. The amount will be credited toward the county's share of the 80/20 federal project. Joann moved approval, second by Gene, and passed. (Br. 10 Pleasant Twp.) 60,000. 3417 Capital Outlay On CR 1400 N, west of CR 200 W, the top header has separated from the end vent. Larry hasn't received all estimates, yet, but feels sure \$60,000. will be enough. Ted moved

approval, second by Joann, and passed.

COUNTY HEALTH 118 Personal Services (pt. time nurse)

13,935. Jane Skeans has state approval to use some of her tobacco funds (\$20,000. annually) for wages. She will appropriate the money in her Health Maintenance budget and transfer it to this budget. Ted questioned Lori being paid the same as the department head, and suggested Council budget for a part-time nurse in the Co. Health 2004 budget. Then Jane may appropriate Health Maintenance funds again if needed. Joann moved to approve \$12,000., second by Leon and passed.

319 Other Services/Charges (meningitis vaccine) 10.167. 10.167. 6 Funds are generated by those who pay for the shot. Gary moved approval, second by Gene,

312 Other Services/Charges (No Man dispatch) 60,000. 60,000. 313 Other Services/Charges (Wab dispatch) 60,000. 60,000. 6 Each line item will support wages for two dispatchers at each location. Joann moved approval for both line items, second by Gene, and passed. COUNTY CORRECTIONS

361 Other Services/Charges (jai 5.107. 5,107. equipment For 13 bunk beds, 13 mattresses & pillows, and 10 blankets to replace outdated items. Gene moved approval as requested, second by Gary, and passed.

HEALTH MAINTENANCE 13,935. 12,000. 118 Personal Services (pt. time nurse) Appropriate to transfer to Co. Health # 118 above. Joann moved to approve \$12,000., second by Leon, and passed.

316 Other Services/Charges (Hepatitis B) 482. 482. Users pay for the vaccination, these funds will buy additional serum. Joann moved approval, second by Gene, and passed.

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