

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 indicate 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 Hauptert 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. ASSESSOR, 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

