

July 26, 2004.

County Council Chairman, Paul Sites, called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with Bob Fuller detained, arriving at 9:00. Leon Ridenour shared a prayer, and minutes of the 6/28 meeting were approved as written, moved by Leon, second by Joann Rauh, and passed. The County General Fund balance as of 7/26 is \$1,568,104.53. Tammy White with the State Board of Accounts and Melissa Henson with the Dept. of Local Government Finance (DLGF) both approved the transfer of \$195,304.06 from the Hospital Debt Fund to Co. General Fund and that was done on 7/13. The county was notified in writing, there were sufficient funds to make the final bond payment without help from the county. Judge Pro Tem, Robert McCallen, ruled in favor of transferring funds from the Letha Jackson bequest for maintenance of the County Farm Home, to the Cumulative Capital Development fund. The 1964 bequest has grown from \$12,444.68 to \$51,878.60, and will be used to help with Memorial Hall renovations. A commemorative plaque will be placed in the building. The Auditor reports the DLGF has notified, in writing, that an additional \$18,024.00 is due to Bowen Center for 2004, and must be added to the 2005 request of \$140,600.00. That has been done. Jay Baumgardner, with Bowen Center, called to make certain the county was complying. Co. Health Nurse, Jane Skeans, and assistant nurse, Lori Foust, proposed they start newborn visits, formerly done by hospital obstetrical nurses. Jane paid them \$50. per visit from her Health Maintenance funds, and the state Health department has approved the same payment for Jane and Lori. Co. Health officer, Dr Gifford, supports the plan. Jane says many first time mothers aren't prepared, and since hospital stays are so short, this program was started. They would offer their services, but visits aren't required if the mother declines. Assisting mothers and babies is a public health issue. Gary Nose questioned double pay, and Ted Little asked about increased liability for the Health Department. Council supports the concept, but not additional pay during regular working hours. Co. Assessor, Kelly Schenkel, says Andrew Harrison, with The Schneider Corporation will present a program on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) this morning. Harrison says the company has been in business since 1962, and he has been with them for 18 years, mostly working with GIS. The information needed for GIS is already collected by various departments, it's just in many formats. It's already available in surrounding counties, thru Schneider, but the Sheriff and Co. Highway have it in Wabash Co., contracted with WTH Engineering. Bob Brown will get aerial photographs thru a Homeland Security grant, but they won't be definitive enough for her needs. Gary says they have it at the ASCS office, and doesn't understand why everyone can't share what's already here. Kelly says getting GIS would be a plus for her office, the Surveyor and the Auditor, and make more information readily available to the public. It would put the county in compliance with the state's multi digit parcel system. The computer system in the Auditor's office is too old to accept the new multi digit system. Kelly will be attending the statewide Assessor conference during budget hearings in August, so she explained her 2005 budget requests. She put \$25,000. in her Assessor budget for new construction updates, where it should be, rather than in the Cumulative Reappraisal budget where Council put it two years ago. Reappraisal money is to be used for reassessment, and she won't have enough money if the \$25,000. comes from there every year. Kelly included \$200,000 in Reappraisal for aerial photo updates and contractual services for GIS. Both Schneider and WTH said it would run \$10.00 per parcel and there are about 20,000 parcels in Wabash County. Gary asked why the county needs to pay an outside contractor for new construction work, and Kelly said there isn't parity in assessed values, if done by Township Assessors, rather than a professional. Prosecutor, Bill Hartley, presented a cost comparison which indicates moving the Prosecutor's office to a county building is more costly than allowing it to stay combined with a private practice office, as it is now. His department has fewer employees than surrounding counties, as some secretaries share time between private practice and Prosecutor business. Relocating would necessitate additional employees, and that expense would exceed the current rental fees. Paul Sites noted building maintenance is something the county has no control over, now. Hartley noted maintenance would be required wherever he was located, and the second floor of Memorial Hall should house another courtroom. Hartley asked Council and Commissioners to keep him in the loop with their plans. Les suggested Bill meet with a Commissioner and a Council member to discuss options, and Bob volunteered to represent the Council. Co. Treasurer, LuAnn Layman discussed the proposal from Manchester Metals to resolve their delinquent tax situation. Byron Brunn, with Manchester Metals, faxed a proposal asking the county to forgive delinquent penalties, and allow a repayment plan beginning in 2005 and running thru 2010. Two payments would be made in 2005, with payments, monthly, the remaining years. Current and future taxes would be paid as they are due. Brunn indicated the business employs about 130, and it's crucial to the Town of No. Manchester to keep the operation going. The company has invested \$650,000.00 to date to keep the business running, and has a positive effect on local economy. LuAnn says this year's current taxes aren't paid, and the delinquent taxes owed by the prior owner should have been paid at the time of purchase. She feels she has followed the required procedure, and the company hasn't followed thru from their end. She talked with a bankruptcy attorney who advised her to put the property in the delinquent tax sale, the quickest way to collect the taxes due. She hasn't found any thing that gives her the authority to forgive delinquent charges or allow a payment plan. Bob supports a payment schedule based on the full amount due, while Paul Bergman opposes that. Final consensus is to put the property in the delinquent tax sale. Ted reported a quick review of the proposed 2005 Co. General budget would indicate about \$800,000.00 will need to be cut, but he will study it more thoroughly. Paul Sites suggested departments compile a schedule of monthly deadlines. He feels that would be most helpful for new employees. After addressing the additional appropriation and transfer requests, Paul Bergman moved to adjourn, second by Joann, and passed.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE VII

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	AYE	NAY
COUNTY GENERAL				
Emergency Management				
222 Supplies (repair trailer brakes)	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	5	1
Director, Bob Brown, originally planned to repair the brakes on the 1988 trailer. Repair estimate is \$825.00, and with a trade-in, he can buy a new trailer from NoManCo for \$890. He would ask the Local Emergency Planning Committee to contribute the difference between \$825.00 and \$600.00. Joann asked about transferring funds from the EMA 200 account, rather than an additional appropriation, but Bob said that would all be spent by the end of the year. Paul Bergman moved approval as requested, second by Leon, and passed, with Joann voting nay.				
Election				
441 Capital Outlay (voting machines)	147,500.00	0.		
Council left this item tabled after discussion. Clerk, Lori Draper, said Microvote had added a clause to the contract, making it void if federal funds didn't come. After reading the addendum, Council feels it allows the county to void the contract. Lori says the maximum she expects to receive is between \$75,000. and \$100,000.00. Gary says to buy what she can with that amount, but Lori says the money is allocated per precinct, and the law says she must have one machine for handicapped people at each polling site. She says these machines will ultimately replace the MS Doss designed machines in use since about 1992. Former Clerk, Kelly Schenkel, suggested some County might like to buy our machines that would be replaced. When Council remembered they had to set aside the total amount, rather than the balance between federal funds and the total cost, they left the matter tabled. Paul Bergman thinks a decision should wait until after budgets are set.				
Memorial Hall				
224 Supplies (HVAC filters)	400.00	400.00	5	1
Filters for the heating/cooling system. Joann moved approval as requested, second by Ted and passed, with Leon voting nay.				
E-911				
371 Other Services/Charges (city police radios)	24,955.00	24,955.00	6	0
Wabash police are updating their radio system by adding a repeater program, and E-911 funds may be used to update, repair and maintain "send" signals only, according to Sheriff Striker. Commissioner, Les Templin, said funds have been used for this in the past. Answering Joann's question about asking City Council for funding, Police chief, Charles Smith, said the need for a new system came up after budgets had been submitted. Ted moved approval as requested, second by Leon, and passed. Gary would like to re-visit the 911 surcharge, after collecting rates charged from surrounding counties. The reason behind the increase didn't work out as planned, and he thinks maybe the rate should be cut. Ted agrees.				

COUNTY CORRECTIONS

361 Other Services/Charges (jail repairs) 2,846.00 2,846.00 6 0  
 To remove a shower and replace the drain in a cellblock at the jail.

366 Other Services/Charges (jail repairs) 23,576.00 23,576.00 6 0  
 For various repairs including: (1) \$8500. to replace the fire alarm system that wasn't working; (2) \$6881. to replace the air conditioning unit for the kitchen; (3) \$8195. to replace the air conditioning unit for cell blocks C-1 and C-2. The state sends about \$24,000. to this account annually for housing of misdemeanants, and the Sheriff has been using it for needed repairs. Ted moved approval on both requests, second by Gary, passed

HEALTH MAINTENANCE

316 Other Services/Charges (Hep B vaccine) 538.00 538.00 6 0  
 Users pay for the vaccination for Hepatitis B, and those funds are appropriated to buy more vaccine. Joann moved approval as requested, second by Leon, and passed.

441 Capital Outlay (misc. expenses) 10,800.00 338.00 6 0  
 The money would be used to cover bioterrorism training expenses like mileage, meals and conference fees. Also for supplies or equipment pertaining to bioterrorism. Leon, Ted & Paul Sites agree they want to know what the money is being spent for, so they want specific appropriation requests as the need arises. Kathy Carter, Clerk/Registrar for the Health Dept. ask Council to approve \$338. to cover the cost of 5 cell phones and the service costs. Ted moved to approve \$338.00, second by Paul Bergman, and passed.

LOCAL ROAD & STREET

5316 Other Services/Charges (underground tanks) 1,222.00 1,222.00 6 0  
 The balance due for state required testing at the site of former underground fuel tanks. They had to go down 25 feet rather than the planned 18 feet, for testing, but learned the site meets state standards. Leon moved approval as requested, second by Gary, & passed.

5406 Capital Outlay (chip & seal material) 248,500.00 248,500.00 6 0  
 Larry Rice, highway supervisor, says 75 miles of chip and seal have been done in one month, but about 190 miles need it. The amount requested would cover material costs for the remaining miles, plus some double chip and seal. Paul Bergman moved approval as requested, second by Ted, and passed. Larry says Old Rd. 15 S work is progressing well, the two biggest structures are in place and 1/2 the asphalt is down. August 20th is the projected completion date for Phase III. Additional right-of-way acquisition is the current hold-up on Phase II, and he has told Butler, Fairman & Seufert engineers that a March 2005 bid letting is not acceptable, he wants it done this fall.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION 2004-3

Increase Juvenile Probation  
 115 Personal Services (wages) \$ 8,047.00\$ 8,047.00 6 0  
 171 Personal Services (soc. sec.) 567.00 567.00 6 0  
 172 Personal Services (PERF) 711.00 711.00 6 0  
 211 Supplies (office supplies) 500.00 500.00 6 0

For the Day Reporting program. Dallas Duggan has applied for a \$10,000. grant to supplement the program which had 261 referrals last year, several of which were repeat offenders. He said Indiana ranks # 1 in the nation for expelling students and # 9 for suspending students. Paul Bergman moved to approve all 4 transfers, second by Ted and passed.

Decrease:  
 310 Other Services/Charges 9,825.00 9,825.00 6 0  
 Transfer approval moved by Paul Bergman, second by Ted, and passed.

HOMELAND SECURITY (HEALTH)

183 Personal Services (conference fees) 223.74 223.74 6 0  
 323 Other Services/Charges (travel) 113.28 113.28 6 0  
 Joann moved approval for both transfers, second by Paul Bergman, and passed.

Decrease:  
 441 Capital Outlay 337.02 337.02 6 0  
 Joann moved approval, second by Paul Bergman, and passed.

/s/ Paul Sites /s/ Leon Ridenour /s/ Ted Little /s/ Gary Nose  
 /s/ Joann Rauh /s/ Paul Bergman /s/ Bob Fuller

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Carol Stefanatos, Auditor