

August 17, 1998

Chairman, Ted Little called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Courthouse, with all members attending. Leon Ridenour shared a prayer, and minutes of the 7/20 meeting were approved as corrected, motioned by Bob Whitesel, second by Eugene Schenkel, and passed. The error was in the description of the Industrial Park expansion area in North Manchester. The correct description is 64 acres east of the railroad in the North Manchester Industrial Park. Pat Lynn of the Local Planning Council informed the Council of her reimbursable grant # 5311 that uses Wabash Co. as the depository. It's part of the Welfare to Work program, and initially, claims are paid by the county, then reimbursed by the state up to \$50,000. The county will need to appropriate funds, and she will be back in September for final approval. Monies are used for transportation, skilled training, mentoring, planning and a demonstration project. The Council gave tentative support.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE VI 1998

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	AYE	NAY
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COUNTY GENERAL

Soil & Water Conservation

113 Personal Services	\$1,065.	\$ 1,065.	7	0
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Prior employee was paid accrued vacation and sick pay, depleting the funds. Eugene moved to approve the total requested, second by Gary Nose, and passed.

County Commissioners

389 Other Services/Charges	1,000.	1,000.	7	0
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An unsafe building was razed on the Ralph Lawson property in Lagro. Taxes were delinquent, and it's due to come over to the county, who intends to turn it over to Lagro. Lagro will repay half of the cost of demolition after a survey is completed. Appropriation will pay for the demolition. Richard Pepple motioned to approve the request of \$1,000., second by Leon, and passed.

Wabash County CEDIT

412 Capital Outlay	30,000.	30,000.	7	0
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Needed for interest payments thru 1998 on the Wabash Industrial Park "spec" building. Bill Bradley says there's a good prospect, plus two back-up possibilities. He hopes we have a tenant by the end of 1998. Eugene moved approval, second by Gary and passed.

416 Capital Outlay	600,000.	600,000.	7	0
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For installation of water, sewer and roads in the east expansion area of the No. Manchester Industrial park. Jim Smith moved to approve, second by Leon and passed.

User Fee - Pre-Trial Diversion

441 Capital Outlay	8,527.	8,527.	7	0
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For a computer software program for the Prosecutor called Pros Link. He's received a grant thru the IN Criminal Justice Institute for \$6,393.25, with his share being \$2,131.75. The program interconnects Prosecutors throughout the state, allowing them to share information. The request appropriates the total amount needed, and funds will be reimbursed except the local share. Gary motioned approval, second by Bob and passed.

Budgets 1999:

Council discussed with elected officials wage options of a percent increase versus a dollar amount, a percent plus a dollar amount to compensate for a 36% increase in insurance pre-miums, or paying 100% of insurance for 1999. They also noted the cost of living is at 1.7%, the state is recommending a 4% increase, David M. Griffith Co. suggests 3.2%, Metropolitan Schools are getting 4.6% and Manchester Schools are asking 3%. Leon moved for a 3.2% increase across the board, second by Jim, the motion failed, with Leon, Rich and Jim in favor and Ted, Bob, Gene and Gary opposed. Bob questioned whether additional funds for insurance compensation were included in the motion, and was told no. Jim then motioned for a 3.2% increase across the board, second by Leon and passed with Leon, Jim, Rich and Bob in favor and Ted, Gene and Gary opposed. Gary then moved that longevity be counted only for current employment with the county. If one leaves county employment and comes back at a later date, they cannot count their prior employment years, second by Gene and passed. Commissioner Hauptert noted that policy making was the Commissioner's duty, Council agreed, and noted they would fund the longevity program if the policy was changed. Gary motioned to pay longevity at 1/4 of 1% of the employee wage times the number of years of employment. It begins the 3rd year of employment (and counts the first 2 yrs.) and increases to a maximum of 20 years. Second by Bob the measure passed.

A four year wage scale proposal for new hires after 1/1/99 was tabled for further discussion at the September meeting. Set clerical hourly rate for courthouse employees at \$5.88 to \$8.88, an increase of 3.2% at both ends.

The highway department had a new line item #441 for new software that would better serve the department's needs and be more user friendly.

The Noble Township Assessor and her employee have passed the level 2 training for assessing officials, and she would like her full time employee to become a deputy. Council consensus is that only one employee in an office would be compensated the extra \$1,000. for completing the additional training, and set her employee wage at 68% of the official's wage, the same as courthouse regular deputies.

The Sheriff noted the transportation officer does much of what merit deputies do, but the pay isn't comparable, nor does he have the job protection. Account #182 for education and training nearly doubled because the Co. Corrections funds used in the past were depleted last year when the computer was purchased.

The Health Dept. request for an \$800. increase in account #310 for legal services would enable them to hire an attorney to attend their quarterly meetings and help with enforcement of ordinances.

The Prosecutor said his employees work 40 hour weeks. Office rent above the agreed amount of \$14,000. in the past has come from incentive funds, but those funds don't receive as much anymore, so he has increased the payments from other funds, with Pre-trial diversion having the largest increase. Account #392 in the Prosecutor budget previously came from Pre-trial diversion funds. Prosecutor IV-D account # 311 is for mandatory national seminar training and # 362 formerly came from incentive funds. Pre-trial diversion # 116 works part time now, but needs to be full time. Account # 311 is for in-state seminars and # 361 is for a new roof on the prosecutor's office.

Emergency Management director, Paul Bergman, would like to be on line, but that's not in this budget. Accounts' #222 and 244 are each up \$100. He plans to supply volunteers with matching caps and shirts so they can be identified.

Convention and Tourism position could become full time in 1999 if the proposed ordinance increasing the percent from 3 to 5 is passed. In 1997 the total income from the tax was \$25,760.04. With a new hotel, we're already at \$26,785. in 1998. Council doesn't act on this budget, but appreciate being kept informed. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The budget hearings reconvened at 2:00 p.m. on August 18th, motioned by Gene, second by Gary, and passed.

Probation department requests # 112 be paid the same as a courthouse deputy and # 113 to receive the same as a first deputy. Gary motioned to stay with the 3.2 % increases for employees, second by Rich and passed. In the past, the Council has figured the number of years' experience plus the percent increase given county employees, for probation officers.

Soil and Water Conservation District officers shared their promotional pamphlets and plans for maintenance and improvements. They want to be more available for tour groups and students. Their wage increase request was 2.2%, so they will have to ask for an additional appropriation for the 1% after the first of next year.

County Agent, Vince Harrell, introduced John Lawyer, Chairman of the Co. Extension Board. Surveyor, John Stephens, updated on his department's accomplishments.

The County Assessor feels all assessor employees should be compensated the additional \$1,000. for passing level 2 training.

Marjorie Justice, of Welfare/ Family Services, is asking the same total for "99" as "98", but switching totals within accounts. The committee working on a plan for early intervention is about finished, and the Council will get a copy of the working plan. Circuit Court, Superior Court, Probation and Clerk all request \$6,250. in their account

# 220 for software to be year 2000 compliant. Superior # 217 is a new line item for pauper counsel conflict. Mike has 2 pauper counsel under contract, but funds are running low because conflicts force him to appoint another pauper counsel at a higher rate. Accounts 314 and 317 added together figure to about \$235. per case. Account #352 includes funds for monthly phone service and legal research companies' fees for internet access. Both judges requested \$5,000. in supplemental wages supplied by counties, though it's not mandatory. Rich moved for a 3.2% supplement for the judges, second by Gary and passed.

Clerk # 220 would move Clerk to CSI computer services like courts and Probation, rather than staying with Manatron. Election Board account #118 would allow pay for poll workers to increase from \$50. to \$75. per day, inspectors would stay at \$100. per day. Under #113 absentee voter board members would earn \$50. a day (\$6.25 an hour) and traveling board members would earn \$40. per day. At 5:45 p.m. member Jim Smith had to leave. Weights and Measures #442 is for a cart that suspends the provers when they're being moved during testing.

Township Trustee Assessors learned the total number of assessments in their townships. This includes personal property, mobile homes and late assessments. Council then figured their labor cost per parcel to get an average, and dropped the high and low figures and ended with \$11.15 (for "98") times 3.2 % increase comes to \$11.51 per parcel for 1999. Those who have completed level 2 training will get an additional \$1,000. Council didn't break down the total for wages allowing the official to decide if they will have additional help or not. Rich motioned the salaries be based on the \$11.51 per parcel figure for the 100 account total, plus the \$1,000. supplement for level 2 completion, second by Gene, and passed 5 to 1 with Ted voting nay. Gary then motioned for the county to pay the additional \$1,000 for training to only one member per township. If both have the training, the official gets the extra money, second by Leon and passed. This left Waltz Township wages frozen for 1999 as the formula used indicates those wages should be lower than they are now.

CEDIT budget requests an increase for WEDCOR from \$42,500. to \$45,000. Council would like to see a copy of their budget at the September meeting, and Gary would like some accountability reports.

Auditor asked for additional funds for account #114 and was denied.

Gary informed members a building study recommendation would remove the county from the museum business. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

/s/ Ted Little           /s/ Leon Ridenour       /s/ Richard Pepple       /s/ Gary Nose  
/s/ Robert Whitesel   /s/ Eugene Schenkel   /s/ Jim Smith

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