AUGUST 21, 22 & 23, 2007

Wabash County Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 21, 2007. Prayer was offered by Jim Kaltenmark. Chairman Bob Fuller called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with all members present: Dean Eppley, Bob Fuller, Claude Markstahler, Gary Nose, Jim Kaltenmark, Mike Ridenour and Ted Little. The minutes of the July 23, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Ridenour made a motion to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Eppley and approved by a 7-0 vote.

The first order of business was to consider the Additional Appropriation requests as advertised for Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2007 No. VIII:

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE 2007 NO. VIII

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget; now, therefore:

SEC. 1, Be it ordained by the Wabash County Council of Wabash County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

Amount	Amount	AYE	NAY
Requested	Appropriated		

COUNTY GENERAL

Commissioners

Personal Services – Sherriff's Pension Fund \$5,256.00 \$5,256.00 7
For July 2007: 204 Claims for Superior Court, 201 Claims for Circuit Court.

This request was approved on a motion by Nose, second by Kaltenmark and a 7-0 vote. Fuller also commented that he would like for the Auditor to start making monthly payments into the Sheriff's Pension Fund now based on the proposed contributions for 2008 instead of waiting until next year.

Coroner

 Other Services & Charges – Autopsies
 \$ 20,000.00
 \$ 7,600.00
 7
 0

 Other Services & Charges – Autopsies
 \$ 8,000.00
 7
 0

Coroner McDonald request: "Can not predict how many cases may come up that will require an autopsy." Following discussion Ridenour moved to approve only \$7500 of the request at this time wanting the Coroner to return to the Council with* requests as needed instead of the total estimated amount for the rest of the year. His motion was seconded by Eppley and approved by a 7-0 vote. Following an accounting by Auditor Jane Ridgeway for bills currently due, Ridenour amended his motion to approve* \$ 7600 at this time, seconded by Eppley and approved 7-0. Before the budget hearings were completed, on Thursday, August 23rd, the Auditor's office presented more past due bills for autopsies filed by the Coroner on Tuesday, August 21st totaling an additional \$8000.

Markstahler moved to approve an additional \$8000 of the original \$20,000 request, his motion was seconded by Eppley and an additional \$8,000 was approved on a 7-0 vote.

COUNTY HEALTH FUND

Other Services & Charges – Equipment Repair \$2,200.00 \$2,200.00 7 0

The Environmental Health Office is in the process of getting a GIS Database Program from Purdue. The current computers do not have either the storage capacity, hard drive space or the Ram required to initiate the database program being designed by Purdue University. Also the current video card is incapable of viewing the GIS mapping data being prepared by Schneider Corp. One system will be for storage and access, the other for data entry. Included were 3 quotes as required by the county.

When first addressed, no employees of the Health Department were present to explain the request so it was Tabled on a motion by Ridenour, second by Little and a 7-0 vote of the Council. Later in the meeting when Jennifer Swango and Kathryn Carter-Lower arrived, Ridenour moved to remove the request from the Table, seconded by Eppley and removed by a 7-0 vote. As explained by Swango the request submitted was for new computers with * monitors to be used for the data base being developed for a GIS layer to show existing septic systems in the county. Swango and Assistant Lynn Ellis would be using and maintaining the data and would need more powerful computer systems for the size of the data as their current computers are over five years old and do not have enough memory. Following discussion, Ridenour moved to approve the request, seconded by Eppley and approved by the Council in a 7-0 vote.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FUND

Other Services & Charges – Food (Work Release) \$40,293.00 \$40,293.00 7 0 Director Jeff Hobson requests: Transfer from Project Income (and appropriate) to Grant fund to cover food for Work Release.

Following discussion, Council approved this request on a motion by Eppley and a second by Markstahler along with a 7-0 vote.

E 911 FUND

Capital Outlay – Other Equipment \$ 7,553.00 \$ 7,553.00 7 0

Director Sandy Beeks: Request from Emergency Management to replace VHF Base Radio repeater that is 45 years old. New Kenwood Base Radio repeater will comply with all the FCC regulations. All Public Safety base radio repeaters in the county are in compliance except the Emergency Management radio. Full compliance date is January 1, 2013. However the cost of replacing this unit will continue to rise. The FCC rules were established in 2000 requiring this change to be made.

Following discussion with EMA director Bob Brown and E-911 Coordinator Sandy Beeks, Ridenour moved to approve the request. His motion was seconded by Markstahler and approved by a 7-0 vote.

RECORDERS RECORD PERPETUATION FUND

Other Services & Charges – Computer SW & Training \$ 7,250.00 \$ 7,250.00 7 0 Requested by Recorder N. Gribben: Transfer from Security Protection Fund, Money held in a separate fund, software installed and paid by Recorder.

Auditor Jane Ridgeway explained the Recorder's request as an action of the

State establishing fees last year for Identity Protection of all recorded documents. The Recorder has been collecting fees which were placed in this special fund and now has enough for the software to be used to redact all personal identity information. Considering this request, Council approved the purchase on a motion by Markstahler, second by Kaltenmark and a 7-0 vote.

LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE FUND

Capital Outlay - Building Repairs \$6,500.00 \$6,500.00 7 0

The Health Department bathrooms are in need of repair and being brought up to code. Three bids were submitted to the Commissioners on Monday, July 30, 2007. Kroft Construction was the least of the three. This was approved by the Commissioners and ISDH (now awaiting Council approval.)

This motion was approved on a motion by Kaltenmark, second by Eppley and a 7-0 vote of the Council. *Note: Councilman Ridenour stated he would like to see copies of all bids or quotes for projects.

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 21st day of August, 2007 by the above recorded aye and nay vote.

The Auditor was directed to present the above additional appropriations to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as by law provided.

Council began discussions with the Commissioners and all Department Heads concerning the 2008 Budget requests as submitted. Discussions were held for two full days (August 21 and 22) and then a summary of the Council's cuts and approvals were given to Department Heads and Employees on Thursday morning, August 23rd. Overall, Council approved three percent (3%) salary and wage increases for most County Elected Officials and Employees and left in effect funding for the County to continue to pay the 3% Employee Share for participation in PERF as well as the Employers Share which will be 6.75% for 2008. No funding for "longevity" or "merit increases" was approved in the budget at this time as Council expressed their desire for the new County Coordinator to work to establish job descriptions and evaluations to be used as a means of equating raises and merit increases to responsibilities and accomplishments in the future. These recommended increases could be funded by an Additional Appropriation yet in 2008 when finished and reviewed. Some individual positions were given larger increases due to circumstances and requests. Funding was included to change the EMA Director position from part time to full time also qualifying the county to receive a larger percentage of reimbursements from Homeland Security funds. Council also established a new position for a part time County Building Inspector as requested by the Commissioners and asked that this position work closely with the current Plan Director and under the guidelines of the Planning Commission rather than as a separate office. A new method of equating Personal Property and Mobile Home assessments by township was used to fund the budgets for the Township Assessors this year. By establishing a per unit cost of assessment the Council felt this was a "step in the right direction". Some township assessors were given full raises up to the amount of their requests. None were cut from current salary levels but some were frozen until they fall in the calculated range.

Consideration was given to the large amount of "unfunded liability" carried by Wabash County for unused Employee Benefits paid at retirement or termination. This has been an ongoing burden for the tight General Fund budget as well as other Funds; causing burdens for department heads that have not had sufficient notice to put the payouts in their budgets. Additional Appropriations have been needed in order to have enough funds to hire replacement personnel. In checking with State officials it was decided that the Council could designate the County's Rainy Day Fund to be used for the current nearly \$500,000 in accumulated unused Employee Benefits. Eppley made a motion for Council to proceed with a Resolution to use the Rainy Day Fund for this purpose. His motion was seconded by Little and passed on a 7-0 vote. The Council asked the Commissioners as the Board of Finance to designate the fund to receive earned interest on the balance to help the fund to grow to meet future demands. By Statute the Council can elect to transfer unspent appropriation amounts to the fund at year end if financially feasible.

No other business, Kaltenmark moved to adjourn, seconded by Ridenour and the meeting adjourned on a 7-0 vote.

The Council will hold a Special Meeting for discussion to consider the implementation of the new Local Option Income Taxes. Fuller said he would like to invite our local Senators and House Representatives as well as Umbaugh Associate representative Todd Samuelson and AIC representatives. The meeting on will be held on Monday evening, August 27th at 7:00 P.M. at the Honeywell Center as that would hold more people that the Commissioners' meeting room.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, September 10, 2007 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room at the Wabash County Courthouse at 8:00 A.M. This meeting will also be for the Final Budget Hearing and Approval.

^{*}Amended as approved September 10, 2007.