

## FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Wabash County Council met in regular session on Monday, February 28, 2011 at the Wabash County Courthouse. Claude Markstahler opened with a word of prayer. Chairman James Kaltenmark led the pledge of allegiance. Kaltenmark called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. with all members present: Kaltenmark, Jeff Dawes, Claude Markstahler, Gary Nose, Ted Little, Daryl Evans and Randy Curless. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway.

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the January 24, 2011 meeting. Little made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Bill Konyha, Executive Director of Wabash County EDG:

1. Presented the revised evaluation for proposed Tax Abatements.

Konyha stated there were three changes:

- a. Targeting: no longer grants zero points to a property that is improperly zoned or inconsistent with the comprehensive plan. It simply no longer qualifies.
- b. The Value Added: prior evaluation gave points per \$100,000 for qualification. Now there is a basic "does not qualify" for a property that has a value under \$100,000. Konyha stated the cost to administer tax abatement for a property under \$100,000 in value exceeds the value of the tax abatement.
- c. Average annual wages: Instead of no points for a company whose wages are under \$10 per hour, a formula is used to decide if a company's average wage is less than \$10 per hour (total payroll divided by the number of jobs at the company divided by 2080 man hours). If the average wage is under \$10 per hour, the company does not qualify.

Konyha stated all of these changes have been approved by the North Manchester Town Council and the Wabash City Council and are the same for all. Evans made a motion to approve the changes to the Tax Abatement Qualifications; his motion was seconded by Nose and passed by a 7-0 vote.

2. Konyha stated NOVAE Corporation near North Manchester has submitted a tax abatement application. A public hearing needs to be set to declare the 78 acres as an economic revitalization area. Konyha requested this to be done at the next Council meeting along with a first reading and possibly a second reading to expedite the process. Little made a motion to set the date for a public hearing on March 28, 2010 at the next Council meeting; his motion was seconded by Dawes and passed by a 7-0 vote. Konyha stated NOVAE had agreed to hire at least 50 people in the first three (3) years of operations. They have surpassed that amount and currently employ over 78 individuals.

3. Council discussed county resident vs. non county resident employment with companies. Konyha stated currently it is a violation of the civil rights act to require that information. Konyha stated the legislation is looking at what they call EDG Credits which would allow a county to give refundable tax credits as an incentive to companies that hire county residents, but it is still in discussion stages.

County Attorney Steve Downs stated he continues to work with Elaine Betty of McCready and Keene, Inc. on the Wabash County Police Retirement and Benefit Plan and will present a final draft of the revised plan at a future date.

The next order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation requests as advertised:

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS  
ORDINANCE 2011 NO II**

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<br>Requested | Amount<br>Appropriated | AYE      | NAY      |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|----------|----------|
| <b><u>COUNTY GENERAL FUND # 0001</u></b>      |                     |                        |          |          |
| <b><u>SHERIFF #0001-0005</u></b>              |                     |                        |          |          |
| <b>0001-0005-01-412-022 Personal Services</b> |                     |                        |          |          |
| <b>- AACTION Grant Payroll</b>                | <b>\$ 3,000</b>     | <b>\$ 3,000</b>        | <b>7</b> | <b>0</b> |

Request money from the AACTION Enforcement Grant (0111 0000 03 430 110) to be appropriated into the AACTION Payroll account to be used for enforcement of a Drug Free Community.

Sheriff Bob Land introduced his Chief Deputy Randy Miller. Land stated these funds will be allotted for overtime used to investigate drug and alcohol cases. Curless made a motion to approve request; his motion was seconded by Nose and passed by a 7-0 vote.

|  |                  |                  |          |          |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>0001-0005-04-445-043 Capital Outlay</b> |                  |                  |          |          |
| <b>- Motor Vehicles</b>                    | <b>\$ 10,000</b> | <b>\$ 10,000</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>0</b> |

Request this amount to be at the dollar amount I was in previous years; Shortage of funds for two (2) new vehicles and equipment.

Land stated the past few years this account was budgeted at \$60,000. Land stated the last administration ordered and signed a contract on November 10, 2010 for the purchase of two (2) new Dodge Chargers for a total of \$43,746 payable from the 2011 budget which was set at \$50,000. Land notes though the bid for the two (2) Dodge Chargers was \$300 dollars higher than the State bid; it was decided to keep the sale within

Wabash County. Land stated the cost for the equipment; cages, radios, and lighting, for the new vehicles will be \$10,326. This brings the total expense to \$54,072; \$4,072 over the approved budget. Land stated he would also like to equip the two (2) new vehicles along with one (1) older vehicle that has an old VHS camera with new digital cameras at a cost of \$4,295 per camera; a cost of \$12,885 for all three (3). The Prosecutor's Office has agreed to cover the cost of one (1) camera. A second camera will be covered by Sheriff Department's Commissary funds and the third Land will acquire funding. This brings the total cost for the vehicle purchase for 2011 to \$66,957. Nose stated he does not agree with the fact that the last administration purchased the vehicles on November 10, 2010 before the State had certified the budget. Land stated the fleet has eight (8) vehicles of the sixteen (16) that are each over 100,000 miles. Land stated next year he will need to replace two (2) four- wheel drive vehicles plus a squad car. After much discussion, Little made a motion to approve the request; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 7-0 vote.

**JAIL # 0001-0033**

**0001-0033-03-432-033 Other Services and Charges**

|                          |                  |                  |          |          |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>- Inmate Transfer</b> | <b>\$ 20,000</b> | <b>\$ 20,000</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>0</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|----------|

**This line item was erroneously left out of the budget when the budget was submitted. This is used for transfer of inmates to the Miami County Jail.**

**This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2011, by the above aye and nay vote.**

Land stated last year \$25,000 was appropriated from June to December and \$15,000 of this amount was spent. The average jail population of the last administration was 88. The current year average population has been 71. If the population goes over 85, inmates will need to be placed at the Miami County Jail and these funds will be required. Markstahler made a motion to approve the request; his motion was seconded by Evans and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Land discussed the 2010 Jail Housing Report and the 2011 Annual Jail Inspection Report. Land stated the jail inspection was held on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Future plans will require that the air conditioning and ventilation systems be addressed and there are electronic doors that will need maintenance. Land stated there are a few items that received second notices but all other issues can be dealt with in-house. Land stated the lighting was changed by the last administration but the State felt it is not bright enough. This has been a concern for at least four (4) years for the State. Land stated he has not known of any complaints by any inmates regarding the level of lighting. Little stated he has heard positive comments regarding the Sheriff's Department and wanted to pass that on. Land stated his officers are out there doing their jobs.

Steve Johnson, Executive Director of Wabash County Solid Waste District presented an update on the recycling fees for 2011:

1. At the February 14<sup>th</sup> Solid Waste Board meeting, the board appropriated an additional \$75,000 to assist in maintaining the recycling drop-off sites for the first half of 2011 with the plan that the new special assessment fee will cover the cost of the remainder of 2011.
2. The per ton rate for material collected in 2011 is set at \$103.26. January's collection volume was 99.39 tons.
3. Reflective street signs will be placed at each recycling drop-off site location to identify them.
4. Also at the February 14<sup>th</sup> SWB meeting, the Board amended the Special Assessment Resolution:
  - a. Defined the parcels that qualify for the assesment: real property, homestead or qualified residential and commercial or industrial properties except those which are "commercial garage" or "parking lot". Darren Bates of Data-Pit-Stop discussed the classification of properties. Bates stated each parcel will be charged only one (1) fee.
  - b. Collecion of taxes can be in spring or fall
  - c. Late fees can be collected as penalties for late taxes are collected: 5% if paid within 30 days after due date, 10 % if paid beyond the 30 day period.
  - d. The establishment of a compensation to be collected through a inter-local agreement with Wabash County Commissioners of up to 3% of the total collected amount.
5. 1,000 educational fliers were sent to to all municipal offices and financial institutions in Wabash County. Council discussed the idea of having the fliers placed with the tax statements to inform all residents what the fees are and why they are being collected. Auditor Ridgeway stated these fliers will be in all courthouse offices during spring tax collection. Bates stated to place these in with the tax statements there would be no extra cost on postage, but there would be a fee for placement and it would have to go to all tax payers instead of just the ones that qualify for the fee. Bates stated this could also be mailed separately. It would be approximately \$5,000 for postage. Labels could be printed to ensure accurate receipt. It would just be a matter of getting them printed, stuffed and mailed. Little stated he would like to see this happen as it would lift the pressure off of the Treasurer's office. Johnson stated he does not have the workforce to initiate this project. It would be a total of 12,000 flier and he has three (3) employees with other responsibilities. Johnson stated the fliers would need to be commercially processed. Council stated they are trying to be

proactive and request this be considered. Johnson stated this would need to go before the Solid Waste Board. Evans also stated this could be done as an ad or a story by the media ahead of time as well.

6. Johnson presented the 2011 annual residential pricing specials. It depicts the items that will be taken at no cost up to a certain amount: appliances 2 free, passenger car tires 8 free...Council stated this is an excellent flier and suggested it be minimized and placed on the education flier to keep all the information together.

Darren Bates, Data-Pit-Stop,

1. Presented an update on the 2010 Pay 2011 Taxes and Circuit Breakers Credits for Wabash County. Auditor Ridgeway presented a copy of each Council members homestead tax statement to show a two (2) year comparison that is printed on the State approved forms and to show the lack of history on tax amounts and the lack of break down between State tax credits and the county LOIT credits. Bates also presented a form he created that could be placed in each tax statement. It shows a five (5) year breakdown of tax amounts due for each parcel. It states that the Indiana General Assembly passed bill HB1001 that reduced Homestead taxes for three (3) years allowing for tax caps to be put into place. Starting in 2010 pay 2011 the taxes will be higher due to the elimination of this State credit. This form also shows that taxes are still considerably less than they were in 2007 due to the implementation of the Local Option Income Tax (LOIT). Bates stated the Treasurer is waiting to hear back from the printer regarding the cost to place Bates' form in with the tax statements. Council discussed that this could also be placed in the news media to inform taxpayers prior to receipt of tax statements.
2. Nose asked where the caps would fall in 2011. Bates stated the only caps will be in agricultural land and long term health care. Bates stated this is due to the credit distribution ratio of 70/30 that was set by the Council in 2010. Bates stated there is a small amount of farm land that will hit the caps due to the fact that the land around them was annexed and they are within city limits. Bates also stated the State has reported that it has over paid the counties over the last few years and will re-coop this amount which could cause caps to increase on rental properties in the next few years.
3. Bates stated the taxes for 2010 pay 2011 should continue at these amounts for the next two (2) to three (3) years.
4. Bates stated on the actual tax rates have gone down on the whole.

**COUNCIL REVIEWED:**

January 2011 Auditor and Treasurer Financial Reports  
Wabash County 2010 Annual Financial Report  
Wabash County Highway Annual Report for 2010  
2011 AACTION Grant Booklets

Kaltenmark asked if the electronic receipt of packets was acceptable. Council unanimously agreed to continue receiving packets electronically.

Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed with a 7-0 vote.

**The following individuals attended the February 28<sup>th</sup> Council meeting:**

*\*If any names are spelled incorrectly, we apologize.*

Commissioners: Scott Givens, Brian Hauptert and Barry Eppley  
Sheila Rhoades  
Bonnie Corn  
Louella Krom

\*Approved as written – March 28, 2011