

**AUGUST 16, 2012**

**WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

Wabash County Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 16, 2012 in the Commissioners' meeting room in the Wabash County Courthouse. Claude Markstahler offered a word of prayer. James Kaltenmark led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Kaltenmark called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. with all members present: Kaltenmark, Randy Curless, Gary Nose, Ted Little, Jeff Dawes, Markstahler and Daryl Evans. 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 July 23, 2012 meeting. Dawes made a motion to approve the minutes as written; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Council discussed the 2013 budget with department heads and public present. Little stated an e-mail received from George Helton at the DLGF this afternoon confirmed that Council was not considering all the funds (on the Budget Form 4B - "sixteen (16) line statement") that could be utilized without spending down the county's cash balances in 2013; thus showing more funds available than they thought. Council stated they decided to implement a 1% salary increase across the board for county employees with the extra funding. Council also allowed the final half of the step increases recommended by the Personnel Administration Committee in 2012 based on the Waggoner, Irwin, and Scheele & Associates Job Classification Study completed in 2009. The Council noted that the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS - formerly known as PERF) has increased Wabash County's mandatory contribution by 1.5% next year bringing it to a total of 10% (plus the employee's share of 3%); and there will be an estimated 8% increase for employee health insurance costs next year. Curless made a motion to approve the 2013 Wabash County Budget on first reading; his motion was seconded by Dawes and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Kaltenmark opened the floor for public comments regarding agenda items. Wabash County resident Mike Ridenour asked what the increase was for the General Fund from the 2012 to the 2013 budget; Little stated it was approximately \$218,000 but is still subject to change.

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

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS  
ORDINANCE 2012 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:

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
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**WABASH COUNTY CEDIT FUND - 0121**

0121-31601-000-0000 Other Services and Charges

- Economic Development Revolving Loan	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	7	0
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RLF out of Project #11 in the 2012-2014 Capital Project Plan Budget (WCHM) to be paid to Economic Development of Wabash County.

Evans made a motion to approve request; his motion was seconded by Nose and passed by a 7-0 vote

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2012, by the above aye and nay vote.

Mike Howard, Wabash County Planning Director, presented The Comprehensive Plan of Wabash County Indiana 2012. Howard stated the update for the Plan was State mandated. Howard stated it is a guide to use when considering implementing changes that affect Wabash County. When Plan changes are implemented, they will be approved by Commissioners and will be advertised to the residents of Wabash County. Howard stated the Plan Commission intends to purchase fifty (50) copies for a cost of approximately \$1,000; a total of \$4,200 has been spent completing the Plan. Copies will be available for viewing at local libraries, each Municipality, the Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Wabash County Economic Development Office, the Wabash County Courthouse. A copy will also be posted on the county website. Nose made a motion to approve Certification of Adoption of The Comprehensive Plan of Wabash County Indiana 2012; his motion was seconded by Dawes and passed by a 7-0 vote. Council extended their appreciation to Howard for leading this project.

Darren Bates, DataPitStop:

1. Stated F-11's were mailed to all home owners in Wabash County. Stated the Assessed Values for Wabash County are down about 1.5% in the entire county. The F-11 appeals are up a very small percentage.
2. Stated in 2011 pay 2012, Wabash County lost \$200,327 in Circuit Breakers credits. With the new certified rates for 2012 pay 2013, Wabash County will loose approximately \$113,216 in Circuit Breakers. If Wabash County were to eliminate the Homestead CEDIT to lower the amount of Local Option Income

Tax applied to property taxes in 2012 pay 2013, (to attempt to utilize the LOIT Stabilization Fund), there would be Circuit Breaker losses of \$248,782. If Wabash County eliminated Homestead CEDIT and lowered the Qualified RES LOIT by .25%, there would be a loss of \$394,555 in Circuit Breakers.

3. Wabash County received \$5,419,825 in LOIT credits from the State in 2011 pay 2012 and will receive approximately \$6,555,984 for 2012 pay 2013. (This increase is due to the fact that the State withheld Wabash County funds of approximately \$1.1 million for eighteen (18) months; part of which is still to be disbursed to the county in 2013.) If Wabash County eliminated Homestead CEDIT, there would be total credits of \$5,242,363. If Wabash County eliminated the Homestead CEDIT and lowered the Qualified RES LOIT by .25%, there would be total credits of \$4,194,071.
4. Stated in 2011 pay 2012, homestead holders paid 13.77% of funds used to sustain the county. Bates stated that on the average homestead holders in Indiana pay 23% and the highest is 33%. In 2012 pay 2013, due to the credit increase from the state, Wabash County homestead holders will only pay approximately 12.05%.
5. Stated Wells County was told by the State that they could submit a request to the State for use of the LOIT Stabilization Fund for items that are deemed emergency if the county has no funds available for that pressing matter. The State did tell Wells County they could not use the LOIT Stabilization Fund for any bridge projects. Bates stated this is something to look into and consider.
6. Stated that Wabash County is not losing a great deal in Circuit Breaker Caps and the rates are relatively low compared to other counties in Indiana. Bates recommended maintaining the Local Option Income Tax at 1% and the allocation ratio at 60/40; 60% PTRC (every tax bill personal and real property) and 40% Qualified Residential (homestead and rental properties) for certified tax rates for 2012 pay 2013. Council will take under advisement.

Kaltenmark opened the floor for public comments on non-agenda items. No comments were offered.

### **COUNCIL REVIEW**

- Auditor and Treasurer Financial Reports – July 31, 2012
- Wabash County Solid Waste District Monthly Report – July 2012
- SBOA Memorandum of July 24<sup>th</sup>: New Funds for Certain Income Tax Distributions

- State Budget Agency: Local Income Certifications for Calendar Year 2013
- 2013 Non-General Fund Budgets: Wabash County Health Department Budget, Surveyor's Perpetuation Fund, Reassessment Fund, Recorder's Perpetuation Fund,
- 2013 Purdue Extension Contract as presented in the General Fund budget

Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting; his motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

**The following individuals attended the August 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting:**

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

Commissioners: Barry Eppley, Scott Givens and Brian Hauptert

Deputy Auditor Linda Conrad

Sheriff Bob Land

Purdue Extension Office Director Teresa Witkoske

Deputy Auditor Mariah Odman

DataPitStop Darren Bates

Health Department Vital Records Deputy Kathryn Carter-Lower

Richard Lower

Surveyor Cheri Slee

Recorder Lori Draper

Treasurer Sharon Shaw

Clerk Elaine Martin

Assessor Kelly Schenkel

Mike Ridenour

Soil & Water District representatives Joe Updike and Susi Stephan

Plan Commission Director Mike Howard

Sheila Rhoades

\*Approved as written – September 10, 2012