

MARCH 25, 2013

The Wabash County Council met in regular session on Monday, March 25, 2013 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Claude Markstahler opened with a word of prayer. James Kaltenmark led in the pledge of allegiance. Kaltenmark called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. with these members present: Kaltenmark, Randy Curless, Gary Nose, Jeff Dawes, Bill Ruppel and Mike Ridenour. Claude Markstahler was present for part of the meeting. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by County Auditor Linda Conrad.

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the February 25, 2013 meeting. Ridenour made a motion to approve the minutes. Nose seconded the motion; it passed by a vote of 7/0.

Kaltenmark opened the floor for public comments regarding agenda items. No comments were presented.

Bill Konyha, President and CEO of Economic Development Group of Wabash County explained that in conjunction with the recent Manchester University bond financing, the County could adopt a policy of charging an issuance fee for all bond financings in the amount of ½% to 1% of the bond financing total. Ridenour stated that since the University benefitted from the county's tax exempt status, he would be in favor of charging an issuance fee. Ridenour made a motion that Wabash County adopt a policy of charging 1% of the bond financing total in the form of an issuance fee for all bond financings in the future and to include the most recent bond financing for Manchester University. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 7/0.

Konyha explained that the newly proposed 2013 Evaluation Tax Abatement form has changed some of the evaluation criteria. Specifically, the lowest category in the average annual wage for jobs created or retained increased from \$10.00 to \$12.00. The remaining criteria will remain unchanged. He stated that the Town of North Manchester had recently approved the new form and that he was seeking approval from the County, the other towns and the City. Ruppel made a motion to approve the new 2013 Evaluation Tax Abatement form. Curless seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6/1 with Markstahler in opposition.

Soil and Water District supervisors Bobby Hettsmansperger, Christian Rosen and Kyle Bowman, NRC official Joe Updike, Nan Hammel, and Wabash County Soil & Water District executive director, Susi Stephan were in attendance to present a soil demonstration and to update the Council on current goals and programs. Mr. Updike conducted the demonstration explaining the benefits of the no-till farming, diverse

rotations and cover crops methods advocated by the NRCS, the State of Indiana and the local Soil and Water district. Hettsmansberger stated that the local county farm has become a training center focused on soil health and currently has a large plot demonstrating cover crop mixes. Council member Ridenour asked about educational programs offered to local groups. Soil and Water officials stated that the county farm currently offers weed identification programs, soil judging contests and other programs of which the local FFA and 4-H groups have been informed. Council president Kaltenmark expressed appreciation from the entire Council to the Soil and Water officials for the soil demonstration and the thorough explanation of their goals and activities.

Clerk of the Courts Elaine Martin, Elections Deputy Teresa Ehret, and Barry Conrad, Vote Center Study Committee representative were present to explain the committee's recommendation to change Wabash County from election precincts to voting centers. Mr. Conrad explained the activities of the Vote Center Study Committee. Conrad stated that the law allowing counties to adopt the vote center model was effective July 1, 2011 and that the study committee was established in May of 2012. He stated that the committee held a formal hearing on January 15, 2013 to address questions and concerns of the public. He reported at least three changes if voting centers are adopted. There would be a change in the manner in which voters would sign in to vote, changes in voting locations, and additional hours to vote. Conrad stated that the required number of voting centers for Wabash County would be at least (3) three centers, but the committee was recommending (9) nine centers resulting in a large decrease from the current (20) twenty precincts. The committee estimated that poll workers required would decrease from 132 to 63 workers. Early voting would be allowed not only in the County Clerk's office on Saturday but also in satellite locations in N. Manchester and LaFontaine. He stated that election costs would be decreased by a projected savings of \$11,600 per county-wide election and that the estimated start-up costs of \$55,000 would be recovered in 4 to 5 election years with increased voting opportunities for all voters. Conrad stated that the recommendation of the committee was required to be unanimous and that the entire committee recommends that Wabash County change from voting precincts to voting centers. Council member Ruppel asked if there would be any changes in poll watcher procedures, who would make the choice of poll workers and if there would be any changes in voting opportunities for elderly and disabled voters. He also asked for documentation of increased voting in the pilot counties. He stated that along with determining the benefits of voting centers, it would need to be determined if voting had increased as a result of the voting centers since this was the intended goal of the law and the primary reason for

making the change. Clerk Elaine Martin stated that she knew that the pilot counties had experienced voting increases but did not have the exact figures at that time. She stated that she would be able to get the figures for Ruppel. Nose made a motion to approve the change from voting precincts to voting centers as recommended by the Voting Center Study Committee. Ridenour seconded the motion; it passed with a vote of 6/0. Markstahler was absent for the vote. Council members signed a resolution certifying the change to voting centers in Wabash County.

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

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE 2013 NO.III**

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:

GENERAL FUND #1000

Dept: Emergency Management	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	AYE	NAY
	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Appropriated</u>		
Repairs and Maintenance	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	6	0

Explanation: On Nov. 20, 2012, EMA sold the 2003 Chevrolet for \$1,800.00. When we have sold vehicles in the past, we have asked for and received the funds back to upgrade or replace equipment. At the time of the sale, Homeland Security District 3 Task Force that includes Wabash County EMA members were working with IN Dept. of Homeland Security to use grant funds for a purchase a truck was approved and at that time, Wabash County was asked to garage the vehicle and provide a driver for deployments. Co. Commissioners approved this measure. EMA requests that the above amount be appropriated so that radio antenna equipment and installation, and emergency lighting for the vehicle can be purchased.

Bob Brown was present to explain the additional appropriation request as stated above.

Nose made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request. Ruppel seconded the motion; it passed by a vote of 6/0 with Markstahler absent for the vote.

ADULT PROBATION USERS FEES FUND #2100

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	AYE	NAY
	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Appropriated</u>		
Other Services & Charges - Painting	\$7,592.00	\$7,592.00	6	0

Explanation: Chief Probation Officer Dallas Duggan requested tentative approval on Feb. 25th for the painting of the Probation office to be paid from the Adult Probation Users Fees Fund. Council's consensus was to approve the expense and directed Duggan to submit a request for an additional appropriation for official action at the March 2013 Council meeting.

Ruppel made a motion to approve the additional appropriation as requested. Curless seconded the motion; it passed by a vote of 6/0 with Markstahler absent for the vote.

In regard to the next appropriation request, Ridenour made a motion to take the request off the table since it had been tabled at the previous Council meeting. Ruppel seconded the motion; it passed by unanimous vote.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT #8850

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Capital Outlay – Furniture & two file cabinets	\$2,947.62	\$2,947.62		
Capital Outlay - Four iPads	\$2,268.36	\$2,268.36		
Capital Outlay – Computer upgrade	\$1,857.50	\$1,857.50		
TOTAL	\$7,073.48	\$7,073.48	6	0
Supplies - Pens	365.00	365.00	6	0

Explanation: Health Department is requesting the purchase of a new computer, monitor, mouse and keyboard, four ipads with cases and docking stations, desk, hutch, locking file cabinets and the purchase of pens for advertising using Grant funds.

Jennifer Scott, Health Dept. Environmental Sanitarian and Health Board member, Dr. Robert Becker were present to explain the requests. Scott submitted competitive quotes from local vendors as directed by Council at the previous meeting and recommended the following purchases:

Indoff Inc. - Desk, Credenza, Hutch, (2) 2-drawer file cabinet (installed)	\$ 2,947.62
Intrasect Technologies – updated HP computer, monitor, keyboard, mouse	\$ 1,857.50
AT&T Mobility – four ipads with protective cases	\$ 2,268.36
Wabash Engraving – 500 imprinted pens	\$ 365.00

Ruppel made a motion to approve the purchases as recommended by the Health department to be paid from the SPHI Health Grant monies. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a vote of 6/0 with Markstahler absent for the vote.

WABASH COUNTY POLICE PENSION FUND #1193

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Personal Services				
– Sheriff’s Pension Fund – December, 2012	\$5,097.00	\$ 5,097.00	6	0

Explanation: Civil Process Collections for the month of Jan. & Feb. 2013

Ridenour made a motion to approve the request; Nose seconded the Motion; it passed by a vote of 6/0 with Markstahler absent for the vote.

Sheriff Bob Land reported the Jail population is currently 66 inmates. He stated that the department had received the best jail inspection report for quite some time and that a staffing analysis had been recommended at no cost to the county. He stated that he would be replacing a transportation van at a cost of \$6,300 to be paid from the County Misdemeanant Fund.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 25th day of March, 2013 by the above aye and nay votes. The auditor was directed to present the above additional appropriations to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as by law provided.

The next order of business was to address the transfer of funds requests.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. 2013-85-02**

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 expense of said county government and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2013 the following additional sums of money are hereby transferred and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

	Amount Requested	Amount Approved	AYE	NAY
DECREASE: General Fund/Circuit Court				
#1000-30831 Children First program	\$1,187.00	\$1,187.00	6	0

SEC. 2 WHEREAS, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations now have unobligated balances which will not be needed for the purposes for which appropriated, it is further resolved that the following existing appropriations be reduced in the following amounts:

INCREASE: General Fund/Circuit Court				
#1000-22000 Computer Supplies	\$1,187.00	\$1,187.00	6	0

Explanation: Transfer of funds request to pay for the purchase of a new laptop computer to be used by both courts.

Circuit Court reporter, Christa Stroup explained that the request is to pay for the purchase of a new laptop computer. Ridenour made a motion to approve the transfer of funds. Ruppel seconded the motion; it passed by a vote of 6/0 with Markstahler absent for the vote.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 25th day of March, 2013 by the above aye and nay vote.

Kaltenmark asked for public comments regarding non-agenda items; no comments were heard.

Council reviewed/approved:

February 2013 Auditor and Treasurer financial reports.

Curless made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ruppel; it passed by unanimous vote.

The following individuals also attended the March 25th Council meeting:

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

Chief Deputy Auditor, B.J. Grube
County Commissioner Brian Hauptert
County Commissioner Barry Eppley

Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Sheila Rhoades
County Extension Director Teresa Witkoske
Mrs. Robert Land
Louella Krom