

JULY 22, 2013

The Wabash County Council met in regular session on Monday, July 22, 2013 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Claude Markstahler opened with a word of prayer and Kaltenmark led in the pledge of allegiance. Kaltenmark called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. with these members present: Jim Kaltenmark, Claude Markstahler, Randy Curless, Gary Nose, Jeff Dawes, Bill Ruppel and Mike Ridenour. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by County Auditor Linda Conrad.

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the June 24, 2013 meeting. Ridenour made a motion to approve the minutes. Dawes 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.

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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE 2013 NO.VII

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:

Elaine Martin, Clerk of the Courts was present on behalf of the Election Board to explain a request for Additional Appropriations:

<u>COUNTY GENERAL FUND – ELECTION BOARD Fund #1000</u>				
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	AYE	NAY
	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Appropriated</u>		
Capital Outlay – Materials/Equipment	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	7	0

Explanation: 20% down payment required to place order for electronic poll books for Vote Centers starting with 2014 primary. Last year during the 2013 budget preparations, it was determined by the Council not to place money in the County Election Board budget for this item until a definite figure was known. Council advised me to return with a request for money. The balance of cost of the poll books will be requested in the 2014 budget.

Ridenour made a motion to approve the request. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 7/0.

Sheriff Bob Land was present to explain the request for Additional Appropriations:

<u>WABASH COUNTY POLICE PENSION FUND #1193</u>				
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	AYE	NAY
	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Appropriated</u>		
Personal Services (June Invoice)	\$2,709.00	\$2,709.00	7	0

Explanation: Civil Process collections for June, 2013: Sheriff's Dept. \$135.00, Clerk's Office \$1,274.00, Sheriff's Sale proceeds \$1,300.00 for a total of \$2,709.00.

Ridenour made a motion to approve the request. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 7/0.

Chairman Kaltenmark asked that Chief Deputy Auditor, B.J. Grube explain the suggestion made by the Auditor's office to consider the budgeting of the Sheriff's Pension Fund for 2014. Grube stated that the revenues generated by the Clerk and Sheriff's fee collections could be annually estimated for possible budgeting instead of additionally appropriating the revenue each month. She stated that the Retirement Trust portion is already budgeted in the Rainy Day Fund in the amount of \$100,000. She suggested that if the revenues that are applied to the Supplemental Trust portion of the pension benefits could be budgeted, the cost of advertising could be saved, the monthly State appropriation approval could be eliminated, and the Sheriff's time could be saved. Sheriff Land stated that he agreed that the revenues could be budgeted and that his only request is that the deposits to First Merchants Bank for the supplemental trust portion continue to be deposited monthly. He estimated that the most current years' revenues totaled \$33-36,000 annually. Discussion followed about the past history of the pension funds and the County's responsibility to fund the supplemental trust portion regardless of the amount of revenues collected. Council's consensus was to direct the Auditor's office and the Sheriff to complete the budget forms and advertise a 2014 budget to be considered at the upcoming Council budget hearings.

Jennifer Scott, Health Dept. Environmental Sanitarian was present to explain the Additional Appropriation request:

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH FUND #8850

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Capital Outlay – Equipment	\$1,010.75	\$1,010.75	7	0

Explanation: New testing program (Lipid profile & HbA1c) to be ordered from World Medical Government Solutions.

Ruppel made a motion to approve the request. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 7/0.

COUNTY TITLE IV-D INCENTIVE FUND #8895

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Capital Outlay –Furniture	\$305.00	\$305.00	7	0

Explanation: Per the letter submitted by Christa Stroup, Circuit Court reporter on behalf of Circuit Court Judge McCallen: Commissioners approved the reconfiguration of the Circuit Court office on July 1, 2013 at a total cost of \$3,050.00 which is already budgeted. Requesting additional money needed for the purchase of additional pieces to the existing panel system.

Markstahler made a motion to approve the request. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 7/0.

Chairman Kaltenmark explained that since the County Council approves the Wabash County Solid Waste District budget, the Council must also approve any additional appropriation requests. The District is requesting to pay down the principal of an existing loan.

WABASH COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT FUND

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Other Services & Charges	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	7	0

Explanation: Pay down debt principal of existing loan.

Curless made a motion to approve the request. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 7/0.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 24th day of June, 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.

Kaltenmark asked for public comments regarding non-agenda items:

Louella Krom, resident of Paw-Paw Township expressed her frustration with the County's phone system which she feels is very unfriendly. She said that she had also experienced a lack of courtesy in her efforts to be connected to the correct county department. Council members thanked Mrs. Krom for her comments.

Darren Bates of Data Pit Stop presented the LOIT estimated revenues, estimated net assessed values and circuit breakers for 2012 pay 2013. He updated the Council on current LOIT credit rates and gave his suggestions for the upcoming year. Bates stated that currently the County has a 60% property tax replacement credit for all tax bills and 40% to qualified residents of homesteads and rental property. He pointed out that Wabash County is #3 or 4 in the highest local income taxes in the State, but explained that the entire county did not collect \$82,497 in 2012 pay 2013 in lost money due to State-mandated circuit breaker credits but the amount for Wabash County government was \$11,812. Bates' figures indicated that the entire county had a total of \$292,522 of lost revenue in income credits under the current 60/40 percentage. Under a 50/50 percentage, the loss was 266,417 but he suggested that the small difference would not constitute an efficient change. The loss of revenue with a CEDIT Homestead credit rate is \$394,742 so he suggested that Council may want to consider lowering or eliminating the CEDIT Homestead credit rate. Discussion followed regarding several options, but Council took no action regarding a change in the current percentage or income tax rate.

Mr. Ridenour presented a request on behalf of the Auditor's office to print the meeting minutes on legal-size paper instead of the current extra-large size paper in order to save some costs and to utilize existing printers. It was stated

that the State Board of Accounts' only requirement is that the paper stands up to years of storage. The Auditor's office will check into the cost of legal-size archival paper, but Council's consensus was no objection to the change in printing.

Council reviewed:

- Reviewed the Auditor's and Treasurer's June 2013 financial reports.
- Reviewed Wabash County Solid Waste Management District's June income statement.

Ridenour made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

The following individuals also attended the July 22nd Council meeting:

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

County Commissioners Brian Haupt and Barry Eppley

Chief Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube

Purdue Extension Director Teresa Witkoske

Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Sheila Rhoades

Bonnie Corn

Louella Krom

Jim Dixon