

## **WABASH COUNTY DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET HEARINGS**

Wabash County Council met in special session on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, August 20, 21 and 22, 2013 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse for the purpose of hearing and discussing departmental budget requests for 2014. Council Members James Kaltenmark, Claude Markstahler, Randy Curless, Gary Nose, Jeff Dawes, William Ruppel and Mike Ridenour were present. Markstahler opened with a word of prayer and Kaltenmark led in the pledge of allegiance. Over the course of three budget sessions, each county department had an opportunity to present their 2014 budget for consideration and review.

Chief Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube reviewed the Budget Form 4B (16-line statement) with Council members and presented some options regarding the intended operating balance at the end of 2013. Grube shared an email explanation from the Dept. of Local Government Finance as to how the 2.6% assessed value growth affects Wabash County since the county adopted a frozen levy and the amount of taxes that can be raised from year to year cannot change. The State DLGF email stated that if the assessed values of the county increase but the levy remains frozen this would lower the tax rate on which property tax collections are based. If the county's levy was not frozen, it would increase 2.6% but because the levy is frozen, the difference between the frozen and the unfrozen levies will be funded by the LOIT Operating Levy monies. Grube pointed out the General Fund revenues have decreased because the CAGIT-Certified Shares and the Riverboat revenue cannot go directly to the General Fund because these amounts are required by the State to be deposited into their own funds. Also affecting the decrease in the cash balance was the transfer of monies in December 2012 into the Rainy Day Fund. She also explained the impact of encumbering and additional appropriations on the budget's 16-line statement. She offered the option of possibly reducing the current unexpended appropriation balances of the General Fund in order to reduce the amount of monies needed to be raised for the remainder of 2013, which also impacts the amount needed to be raised for 2014 budgets and also the option to again transfer unexpended appropriations to the Rainy Day Fund at the end of 2013. Council's consensus was to work toward \$590,000 in cuts/reductions to the 2014 Budgets in order to preserve a \$100,000 operating balance increase to the cash balance at the end of 2013. Several county department officials voluntarily offered reductions to their 2014 proposed budgets. Council took no official action on any budgets at this time. Council members scheduled Thursday, August 29, 2013 at 12:30 P.M. to meet with other county departments that would choose to voluntarily cut their proposed budgets. The Council recessed the budget hearings until August 29, 2013.

**The following individuals attended the August 22nd budget meetings:**

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

County Auditor Linda Conrad, Chief Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube, Accts. Payable Deputy Marcie Shepherd, Weights & Measures Inspector Joe Vogel, County Treasurer Sharon Shaw, County Clerk Elaine Martin, Veteran Services Officer Cameron Lochner, County Recorder Lori Draper, Soil & Water Director Susi Stephan and Joe Updike, Health Board president Dr. Jeff Pyle, Health Dept. Registrar Kathryn Carter-Lower, Purdue Extension Director Teresa Witkoske, County Coroner Carol Whitesel, County Prosecutor Bill Hartley and office employee Debbie Tiffany, County Assessor Kelly Schenkel, County Surveyor Cheri Snee, Planning Director Mike Howard, Sheriff Bob Land, Court Judges Christopher Goff and Robert McCallen, CASA director Dee Street, Probation Officers Dallas Duggan and Sara Lochner and other probation officers, Highway Superintendent John Martin, County Commissioners Barry Eppley, Brian Hauptert and Scott Givens, County Coordinator Jim Dils, EMA/Central Dispatch Director Bob Brown and Central Dispatch Coordinator Sandy Beeks.

**WABASH COUNTY BINDING REVIEW AND PUBLIC HEARING**

The Wabash County Council met in special session on Thursday, August 22, 2013 at 4:00 P.M. in the Commissioners' meeting room of the Wabash County Courthouse for the Solid Waste Management District Budget Hearing binding review of the 2014 Wabash County Solid Waste Management District budget. Solid Waste District director Jenice Rankin and Solid Waste District board member Ken Ahlfeld presented the district's proposed budget to County Council. Ahlfeld and Rankin reviewed every line item of the budget and answered Council members' questions. Council discussed the exact meaning of "binding review" in terms of their authority over the proposed Solid Waste budget and the consensus was to review the binding review process before meeting for final approval of the 2014 Solid Waste Management District budget.

**WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

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

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the July 22, 2013 meeting. Dawes made a motion to approve the minutes. Curless seconded the motion; it passed by a vote of 6/0.

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 updated the County Council with a year-to-date summary of economic development statistics and current business development lead sources and projects. He stated that building inventory is limited within the county in terms of possible manufacturing business needs but the fiber optic cabling installed in the county has and will be attracting more business. He stated that even though some population has been lost, job productivity, per capita income and the county average wage has increased. He spoke about community needs that are expected by the “millennials” (20s-30s) generation and how this represents a great opportunity for communities like Wabash and N. Manchester. Konyha took questions from Council members regarding companies within the county and the future of the LaFontaine TIF District.

Konyha presented the annual (county) Redevelopment Commission report for the year 2012 pursuant to IC 36-7-14-13e with respect to each of the tax increment financing districts created by the (county) Redevelopment Commission. The report listed the parcels and the assessed values allocated to the POET TIF District and the parcels and values allocated to the LaFontaine TIF district. The report presented all revenue received, all expenditures disbursed and any balance remaining. The cash balance in the POET TIF District at the end of December, 2012 was \$328,081.77 and the balance in the LaFontaine TIF District was \$1,178.65. The report also included the outstanding debt (bonds) of the POET TIF District totally \$5,180,000.

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

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS  
ORDINANCE 2013 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:**

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

|                           | <u>COUNTY GENERAL FUND – SHERIFF DEPT. Fund #1000</u> |                                      | AYE | NAY |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|
|                           | <u>Amount</u><br><u>Requested</u>                     | <u>Amount</u><br><u>Appropriated</u> |     |     |
| Supplies - Garage & Motor | \$6,514.29  | \$6,514.29                           | 7   | 0   |

Explanation: Insurance reimbursement to be appropriated back to the Sheriff Department’s budgeted line item.

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:

**WABASH COUNTY POLICE PENSION FUND #1193**

|                                  | <u>Amount<br/>Requested</u> | <u>Amount<br/>Appropriated</u> | AYE | NAY |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Personal Services (July Invoice) | \$1,470.00                  | \$1,470.00                     | 7   | 0   |

Explanation: Civil Process collections for July, 2013: Sheriff's Dept. \$133.00, Clerk's Office \$637.00, Sheriff's Sale proceeds for July \$700.00.

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

Dr. Jeffrey Pyle, Health Board member and Kathy Carter-Lower, Health Dept. Office Manager were present to explain the Additional Appropriation request:

**COUNTY HEALTH FUND #1159**

|                                       | <u>Amount<br/>Requested</u> | <u>Amount<br/>Appropriated</u> | AYE | NAY |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Personal Services – Medical Insurance | \$16,000.00                 | \$16,000.00                    | 7   | 0   |

Explanation: Not enough originally budgeted.

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

Sara Lochner, Chief Probation Officer was present to explain the Additional Appropriation requests:

**ADULT PROBATION USER FEES FUND #2100**

|                           | <u>Amount<br/>Requested</u> | <u>Amount<br/>Appropriated</u> | AYE | NAY |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Capital Outlay –Furniture | \$2,586.82                  | \$2,586.82                     | 7   | 0   |

Explanation: To replace broken or in need-of-repair office furniture & to provide locked storage space. Quotes provided by Quill Office supplies, Workspace Solutions, & Indoff, Inc... Workspace Solutions offered the lowest quote; however, Indoff is a local business.

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

**ADULT PROBATION USER FEES FUND #2100**

|  | <u>Amount<br/>Requested</u> | <u>Amount<br/>Appropriated</u> | AYE | NAY |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Computer Software supplies –Hardware & Labor | \$563.55                    | \$563.55                       | 7   | 0   |

Explanation: To install data drop line, move a fax line, and add a voice port for Help desk area & Intern work space as quoted by Intrasect Technologies.

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

These requests were presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 22nd day of August, 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.

Bob Brown, EMA & Central Dispatch Director was present to request a transfer of funds:

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION  
NO. 2013-85-06**

**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<br>Requested | Amount<br>Approved | AYE | NAY |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----|-----|
| <b>DECREASE:</b>             |                     |                    |     |     |
| <b>#1000 GENERAL FUND</b>    |                     |                    |     |     |
| Central Dispatch – Utilities | \$3,000.00          | \$3,000.00         | 7   | 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:

|                             |            |            |   |   |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|---|---|
| <b>INCREASE:</b>            |            |            |   |   |
| <b>#1000 GENERAL FUND</b>   |            |            |   |   |
| Central Dispatch - Overtime | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | 7 | 0 |

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

The next order of business was an amendment to the 2013 Salary Ordinance.

**AMENDMENT 2013-85-III  
2013 SALARIES & WAGES ORDINANCE FOR WABASH COUNTY**

Whereas: Public Law No. 231 requires County Councils to fix salaries of county officials and employees for the year 2013:

Sec. 1: Be it ordained by the Wabash County Council, Wabash County, IN that the salaries and wages of county officials and employees and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2013 are as follows:

| <b>COUNTY GENERAL FUND – Probation Department</b> |                         |                 |                      |                           |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Fund/Acct.</u>                                 | <u>Position</u>         | <u>Employee</u> | <u>Bi-weekly pay</u> | <u>2013 Annual pay</u>    |
| 1000-11113.0037                                   | Chief Probation Officer | Sara Lochner    | 1,878.34             | 16,905.06 (9 pay periods) |

Effective: August 18, 2013

Ruppel made a motion to approve the amendment to the 2013 Salary Ordinance as requested. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Kaltenmark asked for public comments regarding non-agenda items:

**Council reviewed:**

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

**The following individuals also attended the August 22nd Council meeting:**

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

County Commissioners Brian Hauptert, Barry Eppley and Scott Givens

Chief Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube

Bonnie Corn

Louella Krom

Co. Extension Educator Teresa Witkoske