

## **WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Wabash County Council met for an organizational and monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 29, 2014 in the Courthouse Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Auditor Linda Conrad called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with seven members present: James Kaltenmark, Randy Curless, Gary Nose, Jeff Dawes, Claude Markstahler, Bill Ruppel and Mike Ridenour. Markstahler opened the meeting with a word of prayer and led in the pledge of allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by County Auditor Linda Conrad.

Auditor Conrad opened the floor for nominations for the 2014 County Council Chairman. Curless made a motion to nominate James Kaltenmark for Chairman. Ruppel seconded the motion. Markstahler made a motion to close the nominations. Ruppel seconded that motion also and both motions passed by a 7-0 vote. Chairman Kaltenmark presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Kaltenmark asked for nominations for the 2014 County Council Vice-Chairman. Markstahler made a motion to nominate Mike Ridenour for Vice-Chairman. Curless seconded the motion. No other nominations were heard. The motion passed by a 6-1 vote with Ridenour in opposition.

Sheriff Land presented the 2013 end-of-the-year Sheriff's activity report. He reported that the average population for 2013 was 80.11 compared to an average of 84.83 in 2012 and that the population decreased due to fewer court cases in 2013. Land stated that if prisoners were not also held in Miami County, then the average would be approximately an average of 86. He also submitted Miami County expenses and stated that the Miami County prisoner expense of \$35.00 per day would not change in 2014. Land commented on the 2013 Jail Activity report which had already been distributed to Council. He reported that future needs for the jail included security swinging doors at a cost of \$600.00 per door and that lighting, ventilation and plumbing will need repairs and/or replacements. He updated the Council on the new generator purchased in 2013.

Bill Konyha, President and CEO, EDG of Wabash County, Inc. presented the 2013 Annual Report of the Economic Development Group of Wabash County. He stated that 2013 was the slowest year he had seen for some time. The report listed 2013 Wabash County job growth leads and Konyha explained each type of lead. He submitted a four-year comparison of personal income, per capita personal income and labor penetration rates for Wabash County and answered questions by Council members. Konyha stated two Wabash County negatives that the county has been working to improve and needs to continue to improve are a lack of educated, skilled employees and a lack of existing buildings to compete with other communities.

Konyha explained that both the Indiana House and Senate have proposed legislation that could be foreseen as first steps to complete elimination of Indiana's business personal property tax. He submitted a fiscal impact statement authored by the Legislative Services Agency regarding tax exemption for new personal property introduced by a bill in the House (HB 1001). He stated that none of the proposals contemplate any replacement revenue for those revenues that would be eliminated and that Wabash County would be among many other counties that could not absorb this proposed loss of revenue. He stated that no economic development group and many other groups do not support the proposed bills and reported that many people would like to see a study committee formed before these bills pass. Discussion and questions followed. Konyha submitted a "Replace Don't Erase" resolution to be approved and signed by the Wabash County Council and then to be sent to the appropriate State Representatives. The resolution outlines the Council's objection to the proposal to eliminate certain businesses from paying personal property taxes. Ruppel made a motion to adopt, sign and send the resolution to the state. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

In regard to a request for new tax abatement, Konyha presented the Statement of Benefits for personal property abatement from Advanced Ag Resources, Inc. 4190W 50N, Wabash, IN for the installation of new computerized manufacturing equipment for conditioning, treatment, process blending and packaging of agricultural seed. Konyha stated that with the installation of the computer equipment, the company will retain two existing jobs and will add two additional jobs. Ruppel made a motion to approve the declaratory resolution granting the ten-year abatement. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 7/0.

The next order of business was to address the Salary Ordinance Amendments and Additional Appropriation requests:

County Clerk Elaine Martin was present to explain the request for additional appropriations and the amendment to the 2014 salary ordinance. Sheriff Bob Land was present earlier and took questions from Council regarding his requests.

**AMENDMENT 2014-3  
2014 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 2014:

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, 2014 are as follows:

Fund/Acct#	Position	Employee	@26 pays	Annual
General Fund/Clerk	Deputy/Bookkeeper	K. Bever	\$1,155.42	\$30,041.00
General Fund/Sheriff	Merit Deputy	R. Baker	\$1,514.35	\$39,372.00
General Fund/Sheriff	Merit Deputy	R. Chambers	\$1,510.38	\$39,270.00

General Fund/Sheriff	Merit Deputy	B. Duecker	\$1,506.46	\$39,168.00
General Fund/Sheriff	Merit Deputy	D. Hurst	\$1,502.54	\$39,066.00
General Fund/Sheriff	Merit Deputy	D. Weaver	\$1,494.69	\$38,862.00
General Fund/Sheriff	Merit Deputy	D. Johnson	\$1,494.69	\$38,862.00
General Fund/Sheriff	Merit Deputy	E. Ryggs	\$1,494.69	\$38,862.00
General Fund/Sheriff	Merit Deputy	C. Dawes	\$1,494.69	\$38,862.00

Effective: January 2, 2014

### ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE 2014-01

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	AYE	NAY
Clerk of the Courts	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Appropriated</u>		
Personal Services – Additional Salary	\$1,653.00	\$1,653.00	6	1

Explanation: Clerk: Per recommendation from the State Board of Accounts, I'm requesting to change a current deputy's status to a deputy bookkeeper status in order to have two bookkeepers for improved checks and balances of the Clerk's office accounts.

Ridenour made a motion to approve the request. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 6-1. Nose was in opposition.

Sheriff Bob Land requested the following Additional Appropriations in order to support the salary amendment:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	AYE	NAY
Sheriff's Department	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Appropriated</u>		
Personal Services - Merit Deputy	\$816.00	\$816.00	7	0

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

#### COUNTY GENERAL FUND – Sheriff Dept. #1000

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	AYE	NAY
	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Appropriated</u>		
Education & Training	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	7	0

Explanation: We meant to cut \$1,000.00 from the requested amount of 5,000.00 from the 2014 budget with 4,000.00 remaining in the approved budget, we discovered that the entire amount requested for education & training was removed from the final 2014 budget. We are requesting that the \$4,000 be put back in the budget.

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

#### RAINY DAY FUND - #1186

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	AYE	NAY
	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Appropriated</u>		
County Election Board-Voting Centers expenses	\$47,000.00	\$47,000.00	7	0

Explanation: Clerk is requesting this appropriation because this amount was removed from the County General Fund at budget time. The intention was to fund the expense from the Rainy Day Fund to be appropriated in 2014.

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

**RAINY DAY FUND - #1186**

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
CASA Program Grant matching funds	\$29,500.00	\$29,500.00	7	0

Explanation: Matching grant funds were not included in the Circuit and Superior Courts 2014 proposed budgets as in the past. It was the intention that the match come from the Rainy Day Fund to be appropriated in 2014.

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

**WABASH COUNTY POLICE PENSION FUND #1193**

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Personal Services (November Invoice)	\$2,019.00	\$2,019.00	7	0

Explanation: Civil Process collections for November, 2013: Clerk's Office \$1456.00, Sheriff's Sale proceeds for September \$500.00

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

Ridenour made a motion to approve the December 2013 minutes. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 6/0 with one abstention by Markstahler due to absence from the December meeting.

After discussion, Council agreed to adjust the meeting schedule to move the budget hearings to September instead of August to allow time to receive all information from the state prior to the beginning of the budget hearings. An extra half day (Sept. 29) was added to the budget hearing schedule in order to ensure enough time to complete the budget process. Ruppel made the motion to approve the 2014 calendar with the changes and the dates of the meetings. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Council appointed representatives for the following County Boards and Commissions:

- |                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. E-911                          | Markstahler    |
| 2. Community Correction           | Ruppel         |
| 3. Solid Waste                    | Nose           |
| 4. Animal Control                 | Kaltenmark     |
| 5. GIS                            | Dawes          |
| 6. Emergency Management &<br>LEPC | Nose           |
| 7. Plan Commission                | Curless        |
| 8. Job Classification Committee   | Curless/Ruppel |
| 9. Region III-A                   | Ruppel         |
| 10. Alcohol Beverage Board        | Gary Wood      |
| 11. Laketon Area Regional         | Bill Parker    |

Sewer Board	
12. County Tax Abatement Board	Curless/Dawes
13. County Health	Kaltenmark
14. EDG of Wabash County	Ken Terrell

Ridenour made a motion to appoint all representatives to the county boards and commissions. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

The Council/County department contact list was distributed and after discussion it was agreed to make no changes to the list of contacts for each Council member. Ridenour made a motion to approve the same list for 2014 as existed in 2013. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Nose stated that the Solid Waste Management District will be paying off the mortgage on their building in the near future. He also stated that the solid waste recycling user fee that is charged on the spring property tax statement will continue to be assessed in 2014.

Ridenour requested that the Auditor's office provide the 2013 ending balances of the County Coroner's autopsies and travel accounts since Council approved additional appropriations to her budget in November 2013.

Ruppel noted that the Health Department's 2014 budget was decreased by the State in the amount of \$6,200.00 because there will be insufficient projected revenues to support the budget. The cut in the budget was made from the health insurance account. Health department officials intend to increase departmental fees in order to offset the cut.

**Council reviewed:**

Auditor's and Treasurer's November & December 2013 financial reports.  
 Wabash County Convention and Visitor's Bureau- consideration of 2014 sponsorship for Century Ride.  
 Wabash County Solid Waste Management District – December 2013 income statement  
 Prosecutor diversion fees – possible assist with expense.  
 Animal Shelter budget allocation discussed.

With no other business to come before the Council, Ridenour motioned to adjourn the meeting, motion passed by 7-0.

**The following individuals also attended the January 29th Council meeting:**

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

Deputy Auditor Marcie Shepherd, Treasurer Sharon Shaw, Purdue Co. Extension Director, Teresa Witkoske and, Brad Rody, and representatives of Advanced Ag Resources; Doug Lehman, Robert Hettmansperger, Gary Kratzer, and Matt Melcher.