

## **WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, February 24, 2014 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 seven 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 January 29, 2014 meeting. Ridenour made a motion to approve the minutes. Ruppel 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.

Circuit Court Judge Robert McCallen and CASA Program Director Dee Street were present to request approval to hire a CASA Program part-time employee at a cost of \$13,995. Nose asked if the position was part of the 2014 CASA Program approved budget and Judge McCallen stated that it was not part of the original budget but the expected revenues would support the addition. Discussion concerned the lack of expected revenue as currently documented by the Auditor's office ledgers in order to fund the approved budget as well as to fund an additional staff member. Street assured Council that enough grant revenue will be available to fund the original budget and the requested part-time employee because of the current cash balance that was not anticipated to carry over into 2014. She stated that she will work with the Auditor's office to provide all the grant revenue agreements to the satisfaction of the Auditor's office and Council. Ruppel made a motion to approve the hiring of a CASA program part-time employee based on the documented anticipated revenues. Curless seconded the motion; it passed by a 7/0 vote. Auditor's office note: An official Additional Appropriation request and an amendment to the Salary Ordinance must be approved by Council at the March meeting in order to comply with Indiana State code.

Bill Konyha, President & CEO of EDG of Wabash County, Inc., Doug Lehman, Wabash City Attorney and Robert Hettmansperger, President of Advanced Ag Resources, Inc. were present for the public hearing and the passage of the confirmatory resolution for the approval of tax abatement of personal property for Advanced Ag Resources. There were no comments or questions from the public. Ridenour made a motion to close the public hearing. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed by 7/0 vote. Konyha submitted the Confirmatory Resolution for approval of tax abatement of personal property for review by Council. At the previous Council meeting, a statement of benefits and a

declaratory resolution designating an economic revitalization area and qualifying personal property of Advanced Ag Resources for tax abatement had been approved by County Council. Ruppel made a motion to approve the confirmatory resolution granting the ten-year abatement and to approve the signing of the statement of benefits from Advanced Ag Resources, Inc. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 7/0.

Pat Lynn, Wabash County Animal Shelter board representative and Doug Bogert, Animal Shelter Manager were present to update the Council on the activities of the Shelter and to submit the 2014 Shelter budget. Councilman Ruppel asked if the Shelter Board is planning to raise revenue from other sources, especially in light of the possibility that funding from the county may need to be decreased in the future. Lynn responded that the Shelter is planning fund-raisers and will be applying for grant funds. They also submitted a request for \$90,000 from the County from the county’s CAGIT Certified Shares Fund. Concerns were voiced about the amount already budgeted from the CAGIT-Certified Shares Fund and after some discussion, Ridenour suggested that possibly Riverboat revenue should be used. Lynn added that they have submitted quarterly claims in the past so that would mean not all of the allocation would be needed at one time.

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

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**  
**ORDINANCE #2014-03**

**CAGIT- CERTIFIED SHARES FUND - #1110**

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Other Services & Charges #1110-30810.000.0000 – Animal Shelter allocation	\$90,000.00	\$ 0		No vote taken

Explanation: Requesting additional appropriation from the CAGIT-Certified Shares Fund since the Animal Shelter allocation was not funded in the 2014 General Fund budget.

Ruppel made a motion re-advertise the \$90,000 animal shelter allocation request from the Riverboat (County Share) Fund for consideration at next month’s meeting. Ridenour seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

**DRUG FREE COMMUNITY FUND/Aaction Grant - #1148**

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Other Services & Charges-Prevention & Education	\$11,350.00	\$11,350.00	5	2
Other Services & Charges-Treatment & Intervention	\$ 7,600.00	7,600.00		
Other Services & Charges-Justice	<u>\$ 6,366.68</u>	<u>\$6,366.68</u>		
TOTAL FOR FUND:	\$25,316.68	\$25,316.68		

Explanation: 2014 Budgeted funds summary designated by the Wabash County Aaction organization.

Markstahler asked how many interventions had been identified or completed by the recipients of the treatment & intervention funds. Nose commented on the 25% given to Manchester University in light of the fact that this should be used to benefit Wabash county students. Sheriff Land stated that all recipients of the money must complete a monthly report as to how the money is spent.

Ridenour made a motion to approve the request. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 5-2. Nose and Curless were in opposition.

Sandy Beeks, Central Dispatch Director was present to request an additional appropriation from the Rainy Day Fund:

	<b>RAINY DAY FUND - #1186</b>		<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>		
	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Appropriated</u>		
Central Dispatching Dept/ Personal Services #1186-11316.000.000	\$1041.28	\$1,041.28	7	0

Explanation: A. Goodman Meyer is leaving the employment of Wabash County Central Dispatching to accept a job closer to her home. She has accumulated 64 hours of vacation time that will need to be paid. Previously, a terminating employee was paid from the payroll General Fund line item but other employees have to be paid when they make up the extra time and a new employee will need to be hired, so that would run that particular line item short of money. Per Rainy Day Fund ordinance: accrued, but unused employee benefits due employee at the time employment terminates shall be paid from Rainy Day Fund.

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

Lori Draper, County Recorder was present to explain the request for additional appropriations from the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund:

	<b>RECORDER'S PERPETUATION FUND - #1189</b>		<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>		
	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Appropriated</u>		
Capital Outlay/Machinery & Equipment #1189-40400.000.0000	\$10,452.00	\$10,452.00	7	0

Explanation: The microfilm printer/viewers in our office are very old and are becoming unreliable. The new digital microfilm scanners will print through our office computer workstations. With this technology, we will be able to produce our own back indexing images and will be able to convert the microfilm ourselves and not pay someone for this service. Intrasect has informed me of the need to replace the two public work station towers because they are outdated and will no longer be supported for anti-virus protection. These are the two computers that I replaced with used computers from the Auditor's office two years ago.

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

Draper mentioned current legislation regarding the use of the Recorder's Perpetuation funds. The legislation states that the Recorder must submit a resolution giving permission to County Council to spend the Perpetuation Fund monies for General Fund expenses and that Council would need to pass an ordinance accepting the monies. She stated that there is disagreement among counties regarding this legislation. Recorder Draper mentioned two programs being offered to the Recorder's office by a current vendor. The Tapestry Program will incur initial one-time \$5.95 cost to searchers in order to help stop fraudulent use. The Direct Search program includes a server upgrade at a cost of \$1,000 to be paid from the Enhanced Access Fund, but this will solve some issues for searchers that use the Recorder's office documents and for the Recorder's office staff. The Recorder's user fees 2012 ordinance will need to be updated in the future.

Sara Lochner, Chief Probation Officer was present to request an additional appropriation from the Adult Probation Users Fees Fund:

**ADULT PROBATION USER FEES FUND - #2100**

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Capital Outlay/Machinery & Equipment #2100-40420-0000	\$ 6,500.00	\$6,500.00	7	0

Explanation: Office Concepts, an out-of-county vendor has provided a quote for a new copy machine for the Probation department, however the quote is comparable to others received. Office Concepts has received a good service reference from the Prosecutor's office. Office Concepts is in the Wabash area often and addresses problems promptly.

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

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT /GENERAL FUND**

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Other Charges & Services Debt Principal	\$36,345.72	\$36,345.72	7	0

Explanation: Jen Rankin, Executive Director of the Solid Waste Management District was not present but sent a request for an additional appropriation to the Solid Waste District's General Fund budget in order to pay off the District's loan balance. The additional appropriation had been previously approved by the Solid Waste Management District Board.

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

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

Discussion and concerns voiced regarding the current cash balance of the General Fund and the possibility that a temporary loan would be necessary. Ridenour mentioned the amount of zero tax bills in the county and the consequences that have resulted. Ruppel mentioned the dilemma of being among the three counties that have frozen levies and Nose mentioned the need to review the county's LOIT rates.

**Council reviewed:**

Auditor's and Treasurer's financial reports for January 2014.  
Solid Waste Management District income statement for January 2014  
Encumbering requests from 2013 into 2014 budgets; no action taken due to question about Auditor's worksheet totals presented.

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

**The following individuals also attended the February 24th Council meeting:**

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

Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube, County Commissioners Barry Eppley, Brian Hauptert, and Scott Givens, Sheriff Bob Land, Purdue Co. Extension Director Teresa Witkoske; EMA Director Keith Walters, County Attorney Steve Downs, Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Nick Van Heest, Stephanie Watson, Louella Krom, Bonnie Corn, and Jim Dixon.