

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, April 28, 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 six members present: Kaltenmark, Claude Markstahler, Randy Curless, Jeff Dawes, Bill Ruppel and Mike Ridenour. Gary Nose was absent due to illness. Markstahler opened with a word of prayer and Kaltenmark led in the pledge of allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by the County Auditor’s office.

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

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the March 24, 2014 meeting. Ridenour made a motion to approve the minutes. Ruppel seconded the motion; it passed by a vote of 6-0.

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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE #2014-10

Chief Probation Officer, Sara Lochner was present to explain the request for Additional Appropriations.

ADULT PROBATION USERS FEES FUND – #2100

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Pre-sentence Report Writer #2100-30351.000-0000	\$ 309.00	\$ 309.00	6	0

Explanation: The original budget did not include the payment of training hours required by the Indiana Judicial Center for the contracted Pre-Sentence Report Writer (J. Boardman). He is required to earn 12 continuing education hours per year in order to maintain his Probation Officer certification. The amount requested will cover his hourly rate for 12 hours of training.

Ruppel made a motion to approve the request. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Motor Vehicles #2100-40430.000-0000	\$26,490.00	\$26,490.00	5	1

Explanation: Dorais Chevrolet has provided a quote for a 2014 Chevrolet Traverse Van. We would like to add a new vehicle to our department as we now have 12 people (9 probation officers & 3 field officers) attempting to share one 2006 Dodge Caravan with over 111,000 miles. Additional quotes were requested from Wabash Valley Chrysler however, Dorais Chevrolet provided the best price for the preferred vehicle. The quote is reliable until Wed. April 30, 2014.

Dawes and Ridenour asked about the vehicle usage by the staff. Markstahler suggested the possible purchase of two lower-priced vehicles. Ridenour suggested purchasing a used vehicle instead of a new vehicle. Lochner stated that they wanted the warranty that comes with a new vehicle. She stated that the vehicle insurance would be part of the County’s fleet insurance coverage and be paid from the General Fund but the fuel and maintenance costs would be paid from the Adult Probation Users Fees Fund. Ridenour’s expressed concerns about the extra fuel cost and the

possible decreasing balance of the Adult Probation Users Fees in the future. Ruppel suggested purchasing a fuel-efficient car that would get better mileage. Lochner stated that they considered the transport of several probationers when they chose the van as opposed to a car. Dawes thanked Lochner for the amount of information that she provided for consideration of the request.

Markstahler made a motion to approve the request as presented. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed by a 5-1 vote with Ridenour voting against the motion.

Wabash County Solid Waste District Director, Jen Rankin presented a video about trash recycling featuring second grade students at Manchester Elementary School. She stated that she has been doing a lot of educational activities throughout the county. She stated that the Town of North Manchester's Spring Clean-up Day was Saturday, April 26 and that it was a great success with 256 people participating.

Solid Waste Director, Jen Rankin explained the requests for Additional Appropriations:

WABASH COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Gas Utility	\$ 2,500.00	\$2,500.00	6	0

Explanation: Originally requested \$3,000.00 in 2014 budget but Council cut the account to \$1,000.00. Because of the cut and the past winter season's usage, the account is at a deficit of \$905.88, as of March 31, 2014. Rankin stated that the remodeling of the facility has helped to lower the gas usage.

Ridenour made a motion to approve the request. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Special Assessments (software program support)	\$ 1,000.00	\$1,000.00	6	0

Explanation: This was originally requested in the 2014 budget but Council cut the amount. Rankin explained that this is the cost of updating the Solid Waste recycling fees software program and the annual support services from Data Pit Stop/Darren Bates.

Some confusion existed between the amounts for the software support expense and the administrative fee charged by the County for collecting the recycling fees since these expenses have been included under the Special Assessments line item. Ruppel stated that this cost was not clearly explained by the Solid Waste representatives during County Council's budget hearings. Ridenour suggested renaming this line item to reflect this specific expense since the administration expense is deducted by the County before the Solid Waste District receives the recycling collections and are no longer a part of the SW budget.

Ridenour made a motion to approve the request. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Sales Tax remittance	\$124.84	\$124.84	6	0

Explanation: The entire line item was cut from budget.

Dawes was unclear about the budget name for this item and stated that there was an amount budgeted. Rankin stated that her budget copy shows that the line item was cut. Councilman Ridenour suggested that this line item be appropriated each year since it is collected in 2013 and paid in 2014. Councilman Ruppel stated that all retail business would have a record of sales tax paid so the amount could be estimated for budgets from past years. Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube suggested that the amount due at the end of the year could be encumbered to pay the sales tax in January of the following year which would be a legitimate use of encumbering.

Ridenour made a motion to approve the request. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

No Health Dept. representative was in attendance to present this Additional Appropriations request.

RAINY DAY FUND - #1186

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Personal Services #1186-11316.000.0000	\$3,623.00	\$3,623.00	6	0

Explanation: Health Dept. Environmental Food Specialist, Lynn Dannacher is retiring on April 30, 2014. She has 200 hours vacation and 30 hours of un-used comp time at an hourly rate of \$15.75.

Ridenour made a motion to approve the request. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

These appropriations were presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 28th day of April, 2014. The Auditor was directed to present the above additional appropriations to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as provided by law.

The next agenda item was a transfer of funds request and approval of an amendment to the 2014 Salary Ordinance.

Chief Probation Officer, Sara Lochner was present to explain the transfer request: Probation Officer Hanes' salary calculation was incorrect when the budget was prepared. She is entitled to a ten-year increase that was not included in the 2014 approved budget.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION

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, 2014 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 Appropriated	AYE	NAY
DECREASE: GENERAL FUND – Probation Dept. #1000.11303.000.037 Office Manager	\$327.00	\$327.00	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 – Probation Dept.**

#1000.11410.000.037 Probation Officer \$327.00 \$327.00 6 0

Ridenour made a motion to approve the transfer request. Ruppel seconded the motion; it passed by a 6/0 vote.

This transfer was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on April 28, 2014.

**AMENDMENT 2014-11
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:

<u>Fund/Acct#</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
General Fund 1000-11410.000.0037	Probation Officer	T. Hanes	\$327.00	6	0
Effective: Jan. 1, 2014					

(in addition to originally approved amount)

Kaltenmark asked for public comments regarding non-agenda items.

County resident Jim Dixon stated that he was in attendance at the Purdue Extension fact-finding meeting with Larry DeBoer during the previous week. He stated that regarding possible LOIT changes in the future, he didn't want to see any increase in county taxes but he also realizes that the State sometimes mandates what counties are required to do and that could be the case this time. Kaltenmark stated that Council has not yet discussed the LOIT options and that Council doesn't want to increase taxes either. He thanked Mr. Dixon for his attendance at the Purdue Extension meeting and that Council appreciates his interest and his comments.

Brian Spaulding, Field Representative with 2nd District Congresswoman Jackie Walorski's office introduced himself and offered his assistance to Council. District 18 Congressman, Dave Wolkins introduced himself and offered his assistance with Wabash County's LOIT situation and stated that he would welcome any suggestions that Council might have.

In conjunction with Larry DeBoer's LOIT presentation last week and the County's dilemma regarding jail expenses, Councilman Ridenour presented an option to the other members of Council to eliminate the ¼ percent (.25) currently given to CEDIT homestead credits and to adopt the LOIT Public Safety Income Tax at a ¼ percent (.25) with an overall income rate the same, but designating the money for inmate transfer expense and other public safety expenses including saving for a possible new jail. Sheriff Land also suggested that the county felon per diem amount reimbursed to counties from the State that is currently going into the General Fund revenue could be designated specifically for jail expenses.

Kaltenmark stated that some counties are eliminating CEDIT Homestead credit in increments. Ridenour stated that Council can review the credit amounts each year and the percentages could

be changed each year if necessary. Dawes suggested asking Darren Bates to look at the current data in order to see how Ridenour's option would work out. Ridenour stated that he spoke with Bates and Courtney Schaafsma with the State Budget Agency and they both agreed that the amount generated would be more than \$600,000.

Sheriff Land presented a copy of the Jail Staffing Analysis completed by Bennett Associates, Plainfield, Indiana. He stated that the report recommends twenty-two (22) jail officers for the Wabash County Jail and that the County currently employs only fifteen (15) officers. The report projects that the number of jail bookings over the next two years will be 1,310 annually. The number of jail bookings has fluctuated over the last five years from 1,247 in 2009, 1,146 in 2010, 1,118 in 2011, 1,134 in 2012 and 1,168 in 2013. Land stated that there is no state funding that will accompany the changes in the criminal codes effective on July, 1, 2014 in each county.

Council reviewed:

March 2014 Auditor's and Treasurer's financial reports.
March 2014 Solid Waste Management District income statement.

Deputy Auditor Grube directed the Council to a request for additional appropriations that had been copied to them in order to pay remaining benefits to a retiring Superior Court's office employee from the Rainy Day Fund. The employee is retiring on April 30, 2014 but the additional appropriation could not be advertised and considered until the May Council meeting. Kaltenmark asked for a consensus from Council members. The consensus of the Council was to approve the additional appropriation at the May 27th meeting.

With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

The following individuals also attended the April 28th Council meeting:

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

Deputy Auditors B.J. Grube and Marcie Shepherd, County Commissioners Barry Eppley and Brian Hauptert, Health Dept. Environmental Specialist Jennifer Scott, Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Nick Van Heest, Philip Dale, Teresa Witkoske, Louella Krom, and Bonnie Corn.