

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Tuesday, May 27, 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 the County Auditor’s office.

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the April 28, 2014 meeting. Ruppel made a motion to approve the minutes. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a vote of 6-0. Nose was absent from the previous meeting.

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:

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE #2014-11

RAINY DAY FUND - #1186

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Personal Services #1186-11316.000.0000	\$1,764.00	\$1,764.00	7	0

Explanation: Superior Court Bailiff, Sue Kingston is retiring on April 30, 2014. She has accumulated 105 vacation hours that are payable from the Rainy Day Fund.

Ridenour made a motion to approve the request. Dawes 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
Personal Services #1186-11316.000.0000	\$3,970.00	\$3,970.00	7	0

Explanation: Commissioners’ Custodian, Dick Smith is retiring as of July 1, 2014. He has accumulated 240 vacation hours that are payable from the Rainy Day Fund.

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

These appropriations were presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 27th day of May, 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 order of business was the request for a transfer of funds.

Cameron Lochner, Veteran Service Officer was present to explain the transfer request:

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 – Veteran Services Dept.				
#1000.40400.000.0025 Computer Equipment	\$200.00	\$200.00	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:

INCREASE:				
GENERAL FUND – Veteran Services Dept.				
#1000.21100.000.025 Office Supplies	\$200.00	\$200.00	7	0

Explanation: To be used for the purchase of ink toner & four cartridges which are required because of the increased production of individual claims for veteran benefits.

Markstahler made a motion to approve the transfer request. Ridenour seconded the motion; it passed by a 7/0 vote.

This transfer was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on May 27, 2014.

Marilyn J. Custer-Mitchell, President & CEO of Wabash County Hospital, was present in order to update the Council on the Wabash County Hospital affiliation. Hospital Board members Rob Pearson, Roger Cromer, and Steve Downs were in attendance also. Custer-Mitchell stated the mission of Wabash County Hospital as a not-for-profit county hospital committed to providing quality and value in comprehensive and compassionate health care to individuals and families. She reviewed the process to date by stating that hospital representatives met with County Commissioners and County Council several times over the last few years regarding the need for a new facility. On October, 28, 2013, discussion included the possibility of affiliating and the specific factors driving the decision. WCH hired Attorney Jim Hogan with Hall Render to assist with the process. Discussions were held with Community Health Systems/Lutheran and Parkview Health and “Requests for Proposals” were sent to both health systems. Meetings were held with the Wabash County Hospital Medical Staff and Leadership in regard to affiliation and reference checks were conducted on both health

systems. The decision was made to proceed with Parkview Health because their mission aligns more closely with WCH, the physician employment and leadership model is more structured and organized, and the WCH Medical Staff and Leadership preferred Parkview Health system. Other rationale behind the decision to proceed with Parkview Health was an evaluation of community investment by both systems; property & income taxes, community contributions (grants & scholarships) and uncompensated care (including charity care that varies in definition). Custer-Mitchell stated that WCH has signed a Letter of Intent (Council members received copies of the letter) with Parkview Health and the first negotiation meeting has been scheduled with Parkview Health with a goal to complete the process within four months. Negotiations will be followed by the WCH Board of Trustees approval and recommendation, Parkview Health Board approval, a public meeting, and County Commissioners and County Council approval. Custer-Mitchell asked for questions and/or Council concerns and issues to be addressed in the negotiations with Parkview. Council members responded with the following questions and concerns:

- Councilman Nose: Will an ambulance service be provided by Parkview Health System?
- Will insurance coverage with Lutheran be honored at the new hospital?
- Will Lutheran Health Systems still be providing a helicopter for the new hospital?
- What will happen to the existing hospital building?
- Will any taxpayer funds be used to pay for the new hospital since taxpayers were formerly taxed to pay for the county hospital?
- Councilman Ruppel: Will a morgue or holding facility be available within the new hospital?
- Will local people be given hiring consideration?
- Councilman Ridenour: Regarding other counties that have already affiliated with a health care system, what are their opinions and concerns since affiliation occurred?
- What effect would a new tax exempt hospital building have on the county's tax base?
- Councilman Markstahler: Would a TIF District be established? Who will be issuing the hospital employees' paychecks as related to the county income taxes paid?

Custer-Mitchell made note of all questions and concerns and stated that Council will be kept advised during the negotiation process with Parkview.

Councilman Ridenour asked about the expected date of property & excise tax distribution because of the need to pay back the General Fund loan from Cum. Bridge before the end of the year. Clarifications were made about the General Fund's cash balance and revenue received to date.

Council Chairman Kaltenmark submitted a request on behalf of the North Manchester Public Library Board to reappoint Lisa Ulrey who is willing to continue to serve on the public library board. The appointment would be for a four-year term ending June 30, 2018. Ridenour made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Lisa Ulrey to the N. Manchester Library Board as requested. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a 7/0 vote.

An application to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) to be among three counties chosen to participate in the “Pilot Program for more thorough Non-binding Review of Budgets” was discussed. Kaltenmark stated that the requirements of this program would necessitate Council changing the budget hearing dates to August instead of September and the reviews of the local units would still be non-binding. For these reasons, and because the County Assessor’s office could not certify assessed values in time to the Auditor’s office in order to meet the August 1, 2014 deadline required by the pilot program, the Council consensus was to not apply for the program.

Kaltenmark asked for public comments regarding non-agenda items.

Council reviewed:

April 2014 Auditor’s and Treasurer’s financial reports.

April 2014 Solid Waste Management District income statement. Nose noted that there is upcoming roof repair required on the Solid Waste building.

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

The following individuals also attended the May 27th Council meeting:

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

Deputy Auditors B.J. Grube and Marcie Shepherd, County Commissioners Barry Eppley, Brian Hauptert, and Scott Givens, Sheriff Bob Land, Pat Unger, and Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Joe Slacian.