

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, June 23, 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 May 26, 2014 meeting. Ruppel made a motion to approve the minutes. Curless 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.

Ware Wimberley, Wabash Carnegie Public Library Director requested the reappointment of Charles Miller to the Wabash Carnegie Library board after his first term on the board. Ridenour made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Charles Miller to the Wabash Carnegie Library Board as requested. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed by a 7/0 vote.

The next order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation requests: Sara Lochner was present to explain the request.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE #2014-06

ADULT PROBATION USER FEES FUND - #2100

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Printed Supplies #2100-21204	500.00	500.00	7	0
Education & Training #2100-30110	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Travel & Mileage #2100-30230	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Telephone #2100-30240	500.00	500.00		
Fuel #2100-30523	500.00	500.00		
Service Contracts #2100-30651	1,000.00	1,000.00		

Explanation: During last year’s budget hearings, the Probation Department offered to cut these items from the General Fund in order to relieve the General Fund total expense. These line items need to be additionally appropriated in order to fund the remaining anticipated expenses for the year.

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

Ruppel also asked that all county departments list the amount of unexpended budgeted expense on all additional appropriation requests.

Commissioner Eppley was present to explain the request:

CAGIT – Certified Shares - #1110

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Professional Services - #1110-30992 Wards of the Courts	\$175,000.00	\$175,000.00	6	1*

Explanation: Budgeted amount was not enough for this mandated expense. Eppley explained that the original request for Wards of the Court was \$400,000 which was not going to be enough for the entire year. Concerns were expressed about the CAGIT Fund current cash balance of \$143,200.37. Deputy Auditor Grube reported the revenue of \$850,734.24 to be expected for the remainder of 2014 and the amount of the unexpended budgeted line items totaling \$822,502 plus the \$175,000 additionally appropriated. If all budgeted line items are spent, a negative cash balance of approximately \$3,567 would result. She and Eppley agreed that spending all line items completely as budgeted doesn't usually happen. Questions and discussion followed. Grube outlined each line item presently unexpended. Council instructed the Auditor's office to monitor this fund closely and report unexpended expenses each month.

Ridenour made a motion to approve the request. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-1* vote with Ruppel voting against the motion.

These appropriations were presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 23th day of June, 2014. The Auditor was directed to present the above additional appropriations to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as provided by law.

Ridenour suggested that since the General Fund had received its' allocation of property and excise taxes from May's tax collections, the temporary loan borrowed from the Cum. Bridge Fund should be paid back. Ridenour made a motion to repay the loan from Cum. Bridge to General Fund. Nose seconded the motion; it passed by a 7/0 vote.

The next order of business was the request for a transfer of funds.

Dr. Jeffrey Pyle, President of the Local Health Board 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 Transferred	AYE	NAY
<u>DECREASE:</u> HEALTH FUND #1159-12304 Part time Food Specialist	\$1,811.00	\$1,811.00	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:**HEALTH FUND**

Environmental Food Specialist #1159-11707	\$1,500.94	\$1,500.94	7	0
PERF benefit #1159-17200	\$ 195.12	\$ 195.12		
FICA/Medicare #1159-17100	\$ 114.82	\$ 114.82		

Explanation: Health Department Environmental Food Specialist, Rich Mofield will have 90 days of service as of July 13, 2014. Dr. Roe & Dr. Pyle are requesting that his pay be changed to reflect the same pay as the other Environmental Specialist. The last job study revealed these positions to be the same pay grade. The funds will be transferred from part-time help which will no longer be needed. The Environmental Health Specialist will be cross-training to assist the Environmental Food Specialist and vice-versa. The part-time food specialist help will not be budgeted in 2015.

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

AMENDMENT 2014
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>
Health Fund #1176-11707.000.000	Environmental Food Sanitarian	R. Moefield	\$1,721.44 additional pay (\$149.69 per pay for 11 pays, \$74.85 for one pay)	7	0

Effective beginning: July 13, 2014

Curless made the motion to approve the salary ordinance amendment as requested. Ruppel seconded the motion; it passed a 7/0 vote.

Dr. Jeffrey Pyle, Health Board President also requested the purchase of a 2013 Chevrolet Equinox to replace the Health Department's current vehicle, a used 2004 Jeep Liberty at a cost of \$17,955.52 out of Local Health Maintenance Grant monies. He stated that the current used Jeep will require repairs of at least one half of its' value. He stated that the department obtained three local quotes and Dorais Chevrolet submitted the lowest quote with an expiration date of June 30, 2014. Pyle stated that the State and the Commissioners have approved the purchase but he understands that the funds must be advertised for additional appropriation into the Local Health Maintenance budget in order to comply with public disclosure. Markstahler made a motion to approve the purchase based on the advertising and approval of the additional appropriation at next month's meeting. Curless seconded the motion; it passed by a 7/0 vote.

There was no one present from the Highway department to explain the transfer request but a written request had been submitted by Highway Dept. Superintendent, John Martin:

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 Transferred	AYE	NAY
<u>DECREASE:</u>				
HIGHWAY FUND				
Building Repairs #1176-30600	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	7	0
Trucks/Tractors Equipment #1176-40431	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00		

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:

<u>INCREASE:</u>				
HIGHWAY FUND				
Office Equipment #1176-40490	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	7	0
Trucks/Tractors Repair #1176-30623	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00		

Explanation: The Highway Department has (5) five computers still running on the Windows XP operating system which were old enough that upgrading was not an option. There is not enough money in Capital Outlay/Office Equipment to replace all five computers so we are transferring the remainder needed to cover the computer replacements. Due to the extreme winter season, an unusually high number of equipment failures and repairs had to be made. These repair costs have depleted the budgeted repairs line item. This transfer will fund the repairs for the remainder of the year.

Curless made a motion to approve the transfer requests. Ruppel seconded the motion; it passed by a 7/0 vote.

These transfers were presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on June 23, 2014.

Council discussed the budgeting of the CASA Grant matching amount of \$29,500 to be paid into the CASA Program Fund by the County. The court judges prefer that it not be included in their departmental budgets for 2015. For 2014, the amount was budgeted in the Rainy Day Fund, but the Council's consensus was that the amount be included in the Commissioners' departmental budget for 2015.

Teresa Witkoske, Purdue Extension educator and local extension agency director presented a video of the activities and the community outreach of the local extension agency. Purdue Extension educators Curt Campbell and Angela Christopher also contributed to the video and oral presentation. Charles Guthrie, Purdue Extension board member reported that the "Master Gardener" class in which he participated was a very positive experience for him and other individuals. Council president Kaltenmark thanked the extension educators and the board members for their attendance and for

the update on the activities of the local agency. Council member Ruppel directed his comments to Witkoske when he asked for the specific salary figures for each Purdue Extension Educator working in Wabash County. He stated that he had repeatedly requested a breakdown of the salary figures of the extension educators and received only a total sum of \$240,000 from his inquiry and request to Purdue University. He said that this would lead him to conclude that each educator is making \$80,000. Witkoske stated that she definitely does not make \$80,000 and the other two educators make less than she does. She said that her salary is \$51,000. He also asked how many hours the educators were required to work for their salaries. Witkoske replied that the educators are not allowed compensation time or time & a half and that their jobs are truly salaried positions. She estimated that the educators work at least 40 hours per week and sometimes more in the evenings and some weekends and many extra hours at fair time. Ruppel stated that he is not in any way against the extension agency, but Purdue University recommends that a county the size of Wabash should have two educators and we currently have three. He said that consideration must be given to whether or not we can afford three educators. He said that as the financial administrators of county funds, the Council must have all the facts and figures to make sound financial decisions, especially in light of limited funding and upcoming budget hearings. He again requested a breakdown of each educator's salary and benefits.

Consideration of an amendment to the Rainy Day Fund Ordinance was discussed by the Council members. The amendment would stipulate that any appropriation from the Rainy Day Fund resulting in the fund's cash balance decreasing to below \$800,000 must be approved by a super-majority (more than four) vote of the members. The following opinions were shared:

Ridenour: not in favor of the amendment because this would limit Council; these are monies from already appropriated funds and unspent funds and Council has been a good "watchdog" of the funds. This would add more levels and layers to our decisions; this fund would become more important and restrictive than the General Fund.

Ruppel: the Fund was originally created for emergencies. The money in the Fund is a savings protection and shows the public that we're being good stewards of the fund. What if we have an overly aggressive board as has happened in other counties?

Nose: the Fund should be used for emergencies only. Concerned about the trend to use this Fund for cost-of-doing business items that should be budgeted in other funds and for things we may not really be able to afford.

Kaltenmark: in light of the upcoming board member changes next year, the super-majority vote could be a cautionary and wise option.

Dawes: the concept is good but sometimes more levels can become problematic. The super-majority vote could be a wise choice due to future board changes.

Curless: Need to discuss the budget issues completely before voting on anything. It is important to have the facts and figures and discuss all the issues.

Markstahler: not in attendance for this part of the meeting.

Council decided to wait for all members to be present before taking any action on the proposed amendment.

Kaltenmark asked for public comments regarding non-agenda items.

Council reviewed:

May 2014 Auditor's and Treasurer's financial reports.

May 2014 Solid Waste Management District income statement.

Budget Hearing dates scheduled for Sept. 9, 10, 11 and non-binding reviews for Sept. 4.

Council agreed that these dates would be acceptable to all.

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

The following individuals also attended the June 23rd Council meeting:

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

Deputy Auditors B.J. Grube and Marcie Shepherd, County Commissioner Barry Eppley, Sheriff Bob Land, EMA Director Keith Walters, and Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Joe Slacian. Also present were members of the Purdue Extension Board Brad Rody, Lisa Flack, Ruth Dyson, Lori DuBois, Deb Finch, and Charles and Pam Guthrie.