

## **WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Wabash County Council met in special session in the Wabash County Courthouse, second floor in the Commissioners' meeting room on Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 5:00 P.M. for the "Non-Binding Reviews of 2015 Budgets of the Wabash County Local Taxing Units".

Chairman James Kaltenmark called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. with these 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 following Financial Controllers, Township Trustees, Library Directors, and Clerk Treasurers were in attendance and presented their 2015 proposed budgets for non-binding review by County Council: Dr. Brian Dawson, Metropolitan School District, Scott Bumgartner, Manchester Community Schools, Florence Dahlstrom, Chester Township, Andy DeLong, Lagro Township, Patty Godfroy, Liberty Township, Sue Ridenour, Noble Township, Kraig Ahlfeld, Paw-Paw Township, Rebecca Warmuth, Pleasant Township, Tami White, Waltz Township, Brooke Bolton, North Manchester Public Library, Joy Harber, Roann Public Library, Ware Wimberley, Wabash Carnegie Public Library, Kristie Bone, Town of Lagro, Cindy Gorham, Town of LaFontaine, Wendy Frazier, City of Wabash, Carrie Mugford, Town of North Manchester, and Robert Ferguson, Town of Roann.

Council members unanimously confirmed their recommendations for the units' 2015 budgets as follows:

1. Each 2015 budget should not exceed the 2.7% growth quotient (the average increase in Indiana nonfarm personal income for the preceding six calendar years and the average increase in nonfarm personal income for the County for the preceding six calendar six years).
2. The Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) will decrease the presented 2015 budgets if they exceed the maximum levy allowed.
3. Wabash County Council recognizes the uniqueness of each situation and request. The ultimate decision is made by the DLGF.
4. Council recommends that all units be aware of the increases in the budgets and levies of other taxing units in Wabash County:

| <u>Unit</u>         | <u>2014 Budget</u> | <u>2015 Proposed</u> | <u>Percent Change</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| MSD School Corp     | \$21,353,703       | \$23,052,514         | 7.96%                 |
| Manchester Sch Corp | \$13,537,060       | \$14,915,433         | 10.18%                |
| Chester Township    | \$ 400,750         | \$ 465,038           | 16.04%                |
| Lagro Township      | \$ 477,631         | \$ 453,900           | -4.97%                |
| Liberty Township    | \$ 165,910         | \$ 168,160           | 1.36%                 |
| Noble Township      | \$ 316,943         | \$ 409,589           | 29.23%                |
| Paw-Paw Township    | \$ 199,071         | \$ 240,288           | 20.70%                |
| Pleasant Township   | \$ 234,478         | \$ 224,189           | -4.39%                |
| Waltz Township      | \$ 35,936          | \$ 38,062            | 5.92%                 |
| Manchester Library  | \$ 523,420         | \$ 537,005           | 2.60%                 |
| Roann Library       | \$ 76,554          | \$ 78,350            | 2.35%                 |
| Wabash Library      | \$ 1,350,249       | \$ 1,385,249         | 2.59%                 |
| LaFontaine Town     | \$ 269,101         | \$ 339,926           | 26.32%                |
| Lagro Town          | \$ 140,368         | \$ 186,232           | 32.67%                |
| N. Manchester Town  | \$ 3,463,425       | \$ 3,537,226         | 2.13%                 |
| Roann Town          | \$ 231,344         | \$ 237,653           | 2.73%                 |
| Wabash City         | \$12,729,396       | \$17,071,027         | 34.11%                |

| <u>Unit</u>         | <u>2014 Levy</u> | <u>2015 Proposed</u> | <u>Percent Change</u> |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| MSD School Corp     | \$5,197,546      | \$7,181,925          | 38.18%                |
| Manchester Sch Corp | \$2,992,724      | \$4,263,477          | 42.46%                |
| Chester Township    | \$ 234,978       | \$ 232,806           | -.092%                |
| Lagro Township      | \$ 451,373       | \$ 445,470           | -1.31%                |
| Liberty Township    | \$ 59,260        | \$ 58,107            | 1.95%                 |
| Noble Township      | \$ 151,911       | \$ 176,232           | 16.01%                |
| Paw-Paw Township    | \$ 55,405        | \$ 53,780            | -2.93%                |
| Pleasant Township   | \$ 133,426       | \$ 109,054           | -18.27%               |
| Waltz Township      | \$ 17,397        | \$ 17,800            | 2.32%                 |
| Manchester Library  | \$ 199,028       | \$ 200,000           | .49%                  |
| Roann Library       | \$ 32,045        | \$ 32,600            | 1.73%                 |
| Wabash Library      | \$ 523,283       | \$                   | 1.00%                 |
| LaFontaine Town     | \$ 135,734       | \$ 137,942           | 1.63%                 |
| Lagro Town          | \$ 58,874        | \$ 58,424            | -0.76%                |
| N. Manchester Town  | \$1,599,864      | \$1,896,174          | 18.52%                |
| Roann Town          | \$ 76,416        | \$ 76,992            | 0.75%                 |
| Wabash City         | \$5,315,487      | \$6,445,143          | 21.25%                |

5. Wabash County Council has informed the Units that they will be receiving only 70% of the LOIT levy freeze distribution in 2015 since County Council decided not to increase the levy freeze rate as suggested by the DLGF, therefore, future collections will not be sufficient to fully fund growth. Units will need to decrease their budgets to equal actual collections rather than basing budgets on allowable spending.

Christine Flohr, Convention & Visitor's Bureau Director presented the group's 2015 budget and updated Council on the improvements within the Convention and Visitor's Bureau. The Convention and Visitor's Bureau is not subject to non-binding or binding review but is presented to the County Council as a courtesy to the Board. Flohr presented a total 2015 budget of \$161,476.00 for both income and expenses. She stated that organizational improvements include additional signage, additional financial administration staff, intern program, expanded office operation hours, and standardized filing practices. Promotional improvements include program development, Dam to Dam Century Bike Ride, Taste of Wabash Culinary Walking Tour, bicycle rentals, tourism video, County Guide collaboration, weekly live radio broadcasts, strategic marketing action plan, and increased social media connections.

Darren Bates, Data Pit Stop again explained the Council's options regarding possible changes in the LOIT rate and CEDIT Homestead Credits. As requested by Councilman Ridenour, Bates presented an analysis of 55% LOIT PTRC, 35% Qualified Residential and 10% Homesteads. Discussion and questions followed.

**The following individuals also attended the September 4, 2014 meeting:**

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

Chief Deputy Auditor, B.J. Grube, Accounts Payable Deputy Auditor, Marcie Shepherd, and Matt Dillon.