

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, June 22, 2015 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Mike Ridenour called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Six Council members were present: Ridenour, Kyle Bowman, Randy Curless, Jeff Dawes, Matt Dillon, and Bill Ruppel. Claude Markstahler was absent. Mr. Ridenour opened with a word of prayer and Mr. Ruppel 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, 2015 meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes. Ruppel seconded the motion; it passed by a vote of 6-0.

Ridenour asked for public comments regarding the meeting agenda. No comments were heard.

Circuit Court Judge Robert McCallen and Court Reporter Christa Stroup were present to submit an ordinance that would create the Wabash Circuit Court Administration of Justice Fund. McCallen explained that the Supplemental Public Defender Fund is no longer collecting fees to fund the Court's operating expenses. He explained that as a condition to accept a guilty plea to a crime pursuant to a plea bargain, offenders agree to pay up to \$200.00 to the new fund in order to supplement the Court's expenses. The ordinance states that the money may not be deposited or transferred into the County's general fund and does not revert to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year. The fund is subject to appropriation and may use the money in the fund to supplement its operating expenses. Ruppel made a motion to suspend the rules regarding the need for a second reading of the ordinance and to consider the ordinance after the first reading. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote. Ruppel made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2015-85-08 that creates the Wabash Circuit Court Administration of Justice Fund. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

The next order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation requests. Circuit Court Judge Robert McCallen, and Highway Superintendent John Martin were present to explain the specific requests.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS **ORDINANCE #2015-85-08**

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, 2015 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:

COUNTY GENERAL FUND - #1000

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Commissioners – Personal Services/FICA #1000-17100.000.029	\$ 125,000.00	\$125,000.00	6	0

Explanation: This is the remainder needed to fund SS/FICA & Medicare to the end of the year.

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

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Circuit Court – Other Services & Charges				
#1000-30252.000-035 Pauper Counsel Contempt	281.00	281.00		
#1000-30262.000-035 Pauper Counsel Juvenile	1,170.00	1,170.00		
#1000-30272.000-035 Pauper Counsel Adult	2,819.00	2,819.00		
#1000-30290.000-035 Pauper Counsel Welfare	20,000.00	20,000.00		
Total	\$24,270.00	\$24,270.00	6	0

Explanation: In previous years, the Court had been utilizing funds from the Supplemental Public Defender Fund to pay public defender contracts. However, last year, the State changed the rules and those funds are only accessible for certain items, which does not include public defender contracts. In its proposed 2015 budget, Wabash Circuit Court requested an increase in the public defender/pauper counsel line items to cover that deficiency. The Wabash County Council did not approve that increase, so the Circuit Court will be short by the year's end to pay public defenders' contracted amounts. The State Public Defender Commission reimburses 60% of the actual amount which will be \$14,562.00 deposited back to the General Fund.

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

MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND #1176

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Supplies -Bituminous Mix Materials #1176-24200.000.000	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	6	0

Explanation: Due to the extensive damage done to the county's highway system from the spring thaw, we have exhausted our bituminous mix account in the Local Roads & Streets Fund. I would like to appropriate the money from the MVH Fund instead because there are still many repairs to make.

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

Dr. Robert Beckett was present to further explain the quotations for the purchase of two refrigerator/freezer units to be used to store vaccines which had been originally requested at the April 27th Council meeting. The request

had been tabled in order to receive more information about the purchase. Dillon made a motion to remove the request from the table in order for Council to further discuss the requested purchase. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote. Beckett explained the differences in the two refrigerator/freezer units which had been originally quoted and his preference for purchasing two units from the same manufacturer. He mentioned the need for dedicated electrical lines for safety purposes. He stated that the public health nurse's preference was to purchase one unit from each of the manufacturers, but that she could not be present to explain her preference. He stated that because of the restrictions placed by the State Department of Health for vaccine dosage accountability, the local department may need to purchase one unit from each manufacturer. Ridenour asked if it would possible to store vaccines at the hospital and stated that any electrical issues should be addressed with the manufacturer at the time of installation. Beckett stated that the trips back and forth to the hospital could be an issue for those administering the vaccines. Due to the lack of agreement within the Health department concerning which refrigerator/freezer units to purchase, Ruppel made a motion to table the request again. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Gary Henderson, representative of the Lafontaine Town Council was scheduled on the agenda but was not present at the meeting.

Ridenour asked for comments regarding non-agenda items. Louella Krom asked how the County's membership in the newly-formed Northeast Indiana Regional Authority would affect her as a land-owner. Ridenour stated that the Wabash County community needs to be concerned about job creation and the quality of life within the county. He explained that by joining the regional authority, Wabash County will get more opportunities to make the community more livable. He assured her that the regional authority has nothing to do with landownership.

Chris Hacker asked when the Commissioners will be submitting their budget for 2016. Ridenour stated that the Commissioners are scheduled to present their proposed budget on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 12:30 P.M. and that the budget hearing is open to the public.

Ridenour reported on the state-wide AIC legislation meeting that he and Mr. Ruppel attended. Ruppel noted that there will be changes to LOIT and that counties may need more Probation and Community Corrections staff to handle the changes in law enforcement in the near future.

Council reviewed:

Auditor & Treasurer's financial report for May 2015

Solid Waste Management District Profit & Loss/Income Statement for May 2015.

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

The following individuals also attended the May 26th Council meeting:

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

Chief Deputy Auditor Marcie Shepherd and Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube, County Commissioners Barry Epley, Brian Hauptert, and Scott Givens, Attorneys Steve Downs and Mark Frantz, Bonnie Corn, Louella Krom, Sandy Ferguson, Chris Haecker, Evelyn Deniges, Gordon Ireland, Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Mackenzie Klemann, and The Paper reporter, Emma Sue Rausch, and “109 The Bash” representative, Tim Arnett.