

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

The Wabash County Council met in special session in the Wabash County Courthouse, second floor in the Commissioners' meeting room on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. for the Non-Binding Reviews for the 2016 Budgets of the Wabash County Local Taxing Units.

Chairman Mike Ridenour called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. with these members present: Ridenour, Claude Markstahler, Randy Curless, Bill Ruppel, Jeff Dawes, Matt Dillon, and Kyle Bowman. Ruppel opened with a word of prayer and Ridenour led in the pledge of allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by the County Auditor's office.

The following were in attendance and presented their 2016 proposed budgets for non-binding review by the Wabash County Council: Township Trustees Patty Godfrey, Liberty Township, Sue Ridenour, Noble Township, Kraig Ahlfeld, Paw-Paw Township, Rebecca Warmuth, Pleasant Township and Tami White, Waltz Township. Also Library Directors: Joy Harber, Roann Public Library, Jamia Alexander, North Manchester Public Library, and Ware Wimberley, Wabash Carnegie Public Library. Also Clerk-Treasurers: Carrie Mugford, Town of North Manchester, Wendy Frazier, City of Wabash, Robert Ferguson, Town of Roann, Kristie Bone, Town of Lagro, and Cindy Erb, Town of Lafontaine. Also School Controllers: Mike Keaffaber, MSD/Metropolitan School District, and Scott Baumgardner, Manchester Community Schools. Township Trustees Florence Dalstrum, Chester Township and Andy DeLong, Lagro Township were not in attendance.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>2016 Proposed</u>	<u>% Change</u>
MSD School Corp	21,027,527	24,284,817	15.49
Manchester Sch. Corp	13,894,190	15,008,238	8.02
Chester Township	465,038	497,035	6.88
Lagro Township	336,934	345,035	2.40
Liberty Township	168,160	168,160	0.00
Noble Township	409,589	421,247	2.85
Paw-Paw Township	237,706	236,795	-0.38
Pleasant Township	224,189	238,448	6.36
Waltz Township	38,062	37,200	-2.26
N. Manchester Library	537,005	545,921	1.66
Roann Public Library	78,350	80,127	2.27
Wabash Library	1,385,249	1,413,390	2.03
La Fontaine Town	339,926	328,601	-3.33
Lagro Town	143,494	158,500	10.46
N. Manchester Town	3,386,023	3,482,627	2.85
Roann Town	233,089	269,888	15.79
Wabash City	13,854,123	14,412,319	4.03

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>2015 Levy</u>	<u>2016 Proposed Levy</u>	<u>% Change</u>
MSD School Corp	5,099,693	9,135,456	79.14
Manchester Sch. Corp	2,963,058	4,437,125	49.75
Chester Township	236,304	254,762	7.81
Lagro Township	378,572	359,828	-4.95
Liberty Township	59,842	68,723	14.84
Noble Township	178,448	217,329	21.79
Paw-Paw Township	55,935	67,307	20.33
Pleasant Township	110,403	189,113	71.29
Waltz Township	17,642	25,250	43.12
N. Manchester Library	199,884	220,000	10.06
Roann Public Library	32,559	41,500	27.46
Wabash Library	524,634	537,500	2.45
La Fontaine Town	138,202	146,577	6.06
Lagro Town	58,592	87,923	50.06

N. Manchester Town	1,509,466	1,898,674	25.78
Roann Town	76,989	90,000	16.90
Wabash City	5,444,983	5,620,927	3.23

Ruppel made a motion to approve the following recommendations to be applied to all 2016 Budgets submitted for review from the Wabash County local governmental units. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote in favor.

1. Each 2016 budget should not exceed the 2.6% State non-farm average income growth quotient and salary increases should not exceed the County non-farm average income growth quotient of 2.10% other than in unique situations.
2. The tax levy of Wabash County continues to remain thawed for 2016.
3. The LOIT operating levy rate (levy freeze) cannot be rescinded unless by legislative action and thus remains at the .4%.
4. The LOIT Stabilization Fund will be completely depleted after the December 2015 tax distribution. Wabash County will distribute only the levy freeze income collected for this purpose. Local units need to base their budgets on actual collections received.
5. The DLGF may cut the presented 2016 budgets if they exceed maximum levy allowed.

Christine Flohr, Director of the Wabash County Convention and Visitors Bureau was also in attendance and presented the organization's 2016 budget.

Dillon made a motion to adjourn the non-binding review meeting. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

The following individuals also attended the September 2, 2015 non-binding reviews:

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

Chief Deputy Auditor, Marcie Shepherd, Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube, Rob Cole, Laura Cole, Melissa Vaughn, and Tim Arnett with "The Bash" radio station.

