

**WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, February 22, 2016 in the Commissioner’s Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Mike Ridenour called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Seven Council members were present: Ridenour, Randy Curless, Claude Markstahler, Bill Ruppel, Jeff Dawes, Matt Dillon, and Kyle Bowman. Ridenour opened with a word of prayer and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by the County Auditor’s office.

Chairman Ridenour stated that all public comments regarding agenda and non-agenda items are permitted and encouraged.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2016 organizational meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Keith Gillenwater, CEO of the Economic Development Group of Wabash was scheduled to present a year-end report but had to be rescheduled to the March Council meeting.

The next order of business was a request from the N. Manchester Economic Development Commission Chairman Jim Smith to consider the appointment of Sam Knight to the North Manchester Economic Development Commission. Ruppel made the motion to appoint Sam Knight to the Commission. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed with a 7-0 vote.

The next order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation requests. Highway Superintendent John Martin, Health Dept. Registrar Kathryn Carter-Lower, Sheriff Bob Land, and Chief Probation Officer Sara Lochner were present for the requests. Veteran Service Officer Sam Daugherty was absent due to illness.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**  
**ORDINANCE #2016-85-02**

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, 2016 the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated 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</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
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Veteran Service Dept.

Computer software #1000-30500-0025	\$399.00	\$399.00	7	0
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Explanation: Per County Auditor: the revenue was deposited into the General Fund cash balance on Dec. 21, 2015 so now we need to appropriate the money into the departmental expense line item/account in order to pay the software invoice.

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

**CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND - #1135**

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Bridge #118 Design - #1135-30575	35,000.00	35,000.00	7	0
Bridge #510 Construction - #1135-40762	750,000.00	750,000.00	7	0
Bridge #645 Construction - #1135-40610	3,000.00	3,000.00	7	0

Explanation: Per Highway Superintendent, John Martin: for Bridge #118 (Rd 75 East), the funds are needed to finish the project and pay invoices that were received after 2015 claims were paid. This amount remained in the line item at end of 2015. For Bridge #510 (Harrison Street) construction project, this amount remained in line item at the end of 2015. This project started much later than anticipated so invoices are being received and need to be paid. For Bridge #645 (N. Manchester Covered Bridge) construction project, the State has found an unsupported claim in the audit of the project and they will be requesting the refund as soon as it can be processed.

Curless made a motion to approve \$35,000 for Bridge #118 design. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by 7-0 vote. Ruppel made the motion to approve \$750,000 for Bridge #510 construction expense. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote. Ruppel made a motion to approve \$3,000 for Bridge 645 construction expense. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

**LOIT PUBLIC SAFETY FUND - #1170**

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Motor Vehicles #1170-40430	25,718.00	25,718.00	7	0

Explanation: Per Sheriff Land: the Drug Task Force vehicle was totaled in an accident and it was originally leased and paid for with the Sheriff's Commissary Fund monies. He now requests that the LOIT Public Safety Fund pay for the vehicle replacement. He stated that the original price of the new vehicle is over \$40,000 but the vendor is selling it for \$25,718.

Dawes made a motion to approve the vehicle purchase as requested. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by 7-0 vote.

**STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE FUND - #8850  
(Accreditation Fund)**

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Legal Fees #8850-30110	14,784.00	TABLED UNTIL MARCH MEETING		

Explanation: This is the statement of account for the services of Attorney Larry Thrush, representing the Board of Health in regard to the Local Health Maintenance Grant Fund.

Ridenour stated that the most recent email message to the County Health Board from Attorney Larry Thrush had not been received by Council members in time for the County Attorney to review it and advise Council on any action for tonight's meeting. He also stated that the previous meeting with the County Health Board had been productive and that the County and the Health Board were in agreement as to how to proceed with the State Dept. of Health. Dawes stated that this request should be tabled pending the County Attorney's advice.

Ruppel stated that the matter had been pending for more than a year and that Council needs to take action, but Council does not want a lawsuit. He stated that the County Attorney needs to advise Council, therefore, he is in favor of tabling the request.

Dawes made a motion to table the request until the March Council meeting. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-1 vote with Markstahler voting against the motion.

#### CC/COURT RRP GRANT FUND - #9106

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Personal Services	116,100.00	116,100.00		
Supplies	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Other Services & Charges	21,300.00	21,300.00		
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$140,000.00</b>	<b>\$140,000.00</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

Explanation: Per Sara Lochner: the amount above was awarded for the FY 2016 Supplemental IDOC Grant by the State and has been received by the Auditor; need to appropriate in order to spend the Grant funds.

#### CC/PROBATION GRANT FUND - #9107

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Personal Services	78,986.00	78,986.00		
Supplies	1,800.00	1,800.00		
Other Services & Charges	7,614.00	7,614.00		
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$88,400.00</b>	<b>\$88,400.00</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

Explanation: Per Sara Lochner: the amount was awarded for the FY 2016 Supplemental IDOC Grant by the State; and has been received by the Auditor; need to appropriate in order to spend the Grant funds.

Ruppel made a motion to approve both grant fund requests. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

**Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted this 22<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016 by the above aye and nay vote. The Auditor was directed to present the above additional appropriation to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as provided by law.**

The next order of business was an amendment to the salary ordinance.

#### **AMENDMENT #2016-1A TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE 2016 SALARIES AND WAGES ORDINANCE**

Whereas: Public Law No 231 requires County Councils to fix salaries of County Officials and Employees for the year. Sec. 1: BE IT ORDAINED by the Wabash County Council of Wabash County, Indiana that the salaries and wages of County Officials and Employees and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2016 as follows:

**Fund & Title of Position/Employee Classification      Rate of Pay**

**CC/COURT RRP FUND #9106**

Probation Officer/Service Provider/Facilitator #9106-11808	\$32,148.00
Probation Officer/Re-Entry Court Case Manager #9106-11180	\$38,496.00

**CC/PROBATION GRANT #9107**

Probation Officer Quality Assurance #9107-11705	\$50,870.00
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Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2016.

Dawes made a motion to approve the amendment to the 2016 Salary Ordinance. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Mike Ridenour	
Bill Ruppel	None
Randy Curless	
Jeff Dawes	
Claude Markstahler	
Matt Dillon	
Kyle Bowman	

Attest: Linda Conrad, Wabash County Auditor

Council had been given a report supplied by the Auditor's office of 2015 unexpended fund balances from the CAGIT, CEDIT, CCD, and LOIT PUBLIC SAFETY Funds that could be considered for transfer to the Rainy Day Fund for the purpose of future funding of a new jail facility. Commissioner Hauptert stated that he was still in favor of budgeting jail expense in the Cum. Capital Development Fund. He also stated that the Commissioners recommend the re-establishment of a higher Cum. Capital Development tax rate since in recent years, the tax rate has been decreased in order to pay for General Fund expenses. Ridenour stated that he did not recall this opinion being presented when Council approved the amendment to the Rainy Day ordinance in December, 2015 allowing for the transfer of unexpended balances in order to fund a future jail facility. Ridenour suggested that all Council members review the unexpended balances report and to be prepared for discussion and possible action at the March Council meeting. Ridenour directed the Auditor to add this to the March meeting agenda.

Council reviewed:

Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports for January 2016

Wabash County Solid Waste Management District Income & Expense Statement for Jan. 2016

With no other business to come before County Council, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2016.

**The following individuals also attended the February 22nd Council meeting:**

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

Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube, County Commissioners Barry Eppley and Brian Haupt, EMA Director Keith Walters, Purdue Extension Director Teresa Witkoske, Attorney Mark Frantz., Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Mackenzie Klemann, The Paper reporter, Emma Rausch and “105.9 The Bash” radio reporter, Tim Arnett.