

## **WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, March 28, 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. Markstahler 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.

Chairman Ridenour requested that those present silence their cell phones and 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 February 22, 2016 meeting. Ruppel made a motion to approve the minutes. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Bobby Hettmansperger, President of Advanced Ag Resources, Inc. was present for the review of the compliance with the company's ten year personal property tax abatement. He submitted the required "Compliance with Statement of Benefits" form (CRF-1) for review by Council. Questions were asked Keith Gillenwater, EDC director about the tax abatement procedure. Ridenour stated that he would like for the compliance renewal to be presented to the tax abatement committee before presentation to County Council. Gillenwater stated that this is not a required procedure currently because only new abatement applications go before the tax abatement committee but this additional procedure could be initiated if Council wishes. He stated that the timing of compliance renewal would need to be considered. Dawes suggested that possibly one tax abatement committee meeting could be held in February or March to review all current tax abatements. Curless suggested that this specific compliance renewal for Advanced Ag Resources be approved and then initiate the suggested changes for next year. Ruppel also stated that the Council should go ahead and rule tonight and then initiate changes next year. Dillon made a motion to renew the tax abatement for Advanced Ag Resources, Inc. with the stipulation that the tax abatement committee review the compliance (CRF-1 forms) in the future. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 6-1 with Ridenour voting nay to the motion. Ridenour stated that he is not against the renewal of the abatement, but that he voted no because there had been little time allowed for research and review of the compliance.

Keith Gillenwater, CEO of the Economic Development Group of Wabash presented the 2015 year-end report of the Economic Development Group of Wabash. Gillenwater stated that 2015 had been a good year for economic development. He reviewed employment statistics, stating that 46 jobs have

been created within the county. He reviewed several projects and stated that Wabash County was not selected to go forward for the “America’s Best Cities” award. He said that EDG is working on the Stellar Community implementation; seven projects are underway and two projects have to be delayed. Wabash was awarded a Regional Cities award through the Tax Amnesty program. EDG partnered with Manchester University and Inguard to implement a program for entrepreneur support. EDG launched new marketing projects; a new website, outreach programs and industrial maintenance classes. Ridenour requested a 2015 statistical report from EDG and Gillenwater said that he will be compiling a report very soon and will get copies to Council. Gillenwater stated that the Regional Cities Initiative Program was a one-time award and hopefully will be offered again by the State.

The next order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation requests. Present for the requests were Commissioner and Drainage Board Chairman Barry Eppley, County Treasurer Sharon Shaw, and Health Board Chairman Keith Walters.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**  
**ORDINANCE #2016-85-03**

**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
<u>GENERAL FUND - Drainage Board.</u>				
Watershed drain layer software #1000-30541	\$7,738.00	\$7,738.00	7	0

Explanation: Per Drainage Board Chairman: This is a part of an ongoing contract from 2006 with Schneider Corp. for watershed and drain development training. The remaining funds of \$11,637 from the original contract of \$39,364 were reserved for future training in the development of watersheds. We anticipate using a portion of these funds in 2016, and the remaining funds will be available for future training. These funds have been encumbered in the past, but, now will require an additional appropriation for 2016.

Council member Bowman asked if the drain layer will be added to the GIS program. Surveyor Cheri Slee stated that some descriptions are not accurate and so the dept. is not currently comfortable with adding this layer now.

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

**SOLID WASTE ADMINISTRATIVE FUND - #1194**

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Computer Equipment #1194-40400	\$758.00	\$758.00	7	0

Explanation: Per County Treasurer: The computer that is used to post all of the tax payments and the payments collected by local banks has become very slow. This computer was purchased in 2005 by the Assessor's office and then handed down to the Treasurer's office. I asked Joe Wright from Intrasect to check it and see if it could be made faster. He determined that we need a new computer. Treasurer received three quotes and Intrasect was the lowest.

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

#### **LOCAL HEALTH TRUST FUND - #1206**

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Computer Equipment #1206-40421	\$554.00	\$554.00	7	0

Explanation: Per Health Dept.: See attached quote from Intrasect Technologies to install a program dialer for the refrigerator/freezer used for vaccine storage. This back-up is necessary because of recent vaccine damage.

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

**Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 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 the consideration of transferring the 2015 unexpended fund balances or partial balances from the CAGIT, CEDIT, CCD, and LOIT Public Safety Funds to the Rainy Day Fund as stated in the Rainy Day Ordinance for accumulation toward a future new jail facility. Ruppel stated that even though Council could decide to transfer just a small amount, it is important to transfer some funds for the future jail facility and that it could always be transferred back, if necessary. Council reviewed the current and projected budget of the LOIT Public Safety Fund for possible transfer. Commissioner Eppley pointed out the General Fund cash flow statement shows a negative balance at the end of May until we receive June's property tax distribution. Ridenour stated that this would be for only one month and the General Fund could borrow from another fund for just a month's time. Dillon asked if the jail inmate transfers to Miami County have been fully forecasted in the current 2016 budget or will Council need additional appropriations to pay for this expense. Ruppel suggested that more research into 2015 and 2016 budgeted expense is necessary before transferring. Ridenour suggested that in the future, unexpended December balances from the current year be presented to Council at their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in January of the following year for consideration for transferring to the Rainy Day Fund. No action was taken on a transfer of 2015 unexpended fund balances to the Rainy Day Fund.

Council reviewed:

Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports for February 2016

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

Council members have noticed that they are not receiving year-to-date figures with the Solid Waste Management District's monthly income and expense statement and so they requested that Council member Dillon, (Council's liaison) request this from the Solid Waste Management office.

With no other business to come before the Wabash County Council, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2016.

**The following individuals also attended the March 28th Council meeting:**

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

Chief Deputy Auditor Marcie Shepherd, County Commissioners Barry Eppley, Brian Hauptert, and Scott Givens, Sheriff Bob Land, County Treasurer Sharon Shaw, County Surveyor Cheri Slee, EMA Director Keith Walters, Purdue Extension Director Teresa Witkoske, Attorney Mark Frantz, Lorissa Sweet, Bonnie Corn, Phil Dale, Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Mackenzie Klemann, The Paper reporter, Emma Rausch and "105.9 The Bash" radio reporter, Tim Arnett.