

**WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, May 23, 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 Markstahler 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 April 25, 2016 meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

The next order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation requests. Present for the requests were: Convention & Visitors Bureau director Christine Flohr, Commissioners Brian Hauptert and Scott Givens, County Sheriff Bob Land, Highway Superintendent John Martin, Circuit Court Judge Robert McCallen, and Probation Officer Trisha Haines. There was no representative from the Prosecutor’s office in attendance to explain the additional appropriation request.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**  
**ORDINANCE #2016-85-05**

**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:**

**RAINY DAY FUND- #1186**

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
<u>Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau (CVB)</u> Expansion of Services Plan #1186-31602.00	\$75,000.00	<b>Request withdrawn, no action taken</b>		

Explanation: Submitted by Christine Flohr, CVB Director: This is a request for financial support from Wabash County government to implement the “Expansion of Services Plan” for promotion and marketing of “Visit Wabash County”.

Christine Flohr, CVB Director explained that the appropriation request has been withdrawn because the County Commissioners and the City of Wabash have agreed to split the \$75,000 plan cost for 2016; each funding \$37,500

out of existing CEDIT Funds. Commissioner Brian Hauptert stated that the current CEDIT Fund budget includes an "Economic Development" account from which the county's share of the cost can be funded so there is no need to additionally appropriate at this time.

Ridenour thanked Flohr for her diligence and efforts with this project as well as other past projects and stated that he is anticipating positive results from the promotion and marketing plan.

**COUNTY GENERAL FUND- #1000**

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
<u>GENERAL FUND - Commissioners</u>				
Examination of Records #1000-30890.0029	\$19,442.00	\$19,442.00	7	0

Explanation: The cost, \$19,859.00 of the Metropolitan School District audit by the State Board of Accounts to be reimbursed in the distribution of taxes. Current balance in account = \$417.00

Ruppel made a motion to approve the request for an additional appropriation. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

**COUNTY GENERAL FUND- #1000**

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
<u>GENERAL FUND - Sheriff</u>				
Garage & Motor supplies #1000-22500.0005	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	7	0

Explanation: Per Sheriff Bob Land: The Sheriff's department sold a Dodge Charger to the highest bidder. Requesting to use the money to purchase new vehicle equipment.

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

Sheriff Land reported that as of June 5th, the department will be short-handed by two officers until new officers can be hired. He stated the Jail Study meeting was held today and the architecture, engineering & planning firm, DLZ has completed a feasibility study for the Wabash County Jail. Land reported that he will be submitting an additional appropriation request for \$200,000 for Inmate Transfers out of the LOIT Public Safety Fund for Council's consideration at the June meeting. He also stated that Indiana criminal codes may be revisited in the next legislative session which could result in less financial responsibility from local government, but Sheriff's Association has had no luck in getting State funding assistance.

**PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION FUND #2501**

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
<u>Law Enforcement Equipment</u>				
#2501-40432.000.000	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	7	0

Explanation: Per Bill Hartley, County Prosecutor: This is a reimbursement from the IPAC Drug Prosecution Funds. The Prosecutor paid for various surveillance equipment out of Pre-Trial Diversion Fund and this is a reimbursement of that cost. Need to appropriate to the expense line item.

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

**CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND- #1135**

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
<u>Bridge #118 Construction</u>				
#1135-40765.000-0000	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	7	0
CR 75 East over Burr Creek				

Explanation: Per John Martin, Highway Superintendent: Need to appropriate the funding of the construction of a new bridge to replace the existing one which is on the verge of being closed to traffic because of deterioration of the bridge piling and caps. The process takes 90-120 days.

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

**Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted this 23rd day of May, 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 to address the Transfer of Funds requests. Present for these requests were Judge Robert McCallen and Probation Officer Trisha Haines.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION  
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 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:**

**SEC. 2 WHEREAS, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations now have unobligated balances which will not be needed for the purposes for which appropriated, it is further resolved that the following existing appropriations be reduced in the following amounts.**

**DECREASE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS/COURT RRP GRANT FUND - #9106**

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amt. Approved</u>	AYE	NAY
Personal Services				
#9106-11118.0000 Probation Officer	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	7	0
#9106-11808.0000 Probation Officer	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00		

**INCREASE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS/COURT RRP GRANT FUND - #9106**

<b>Other Services &amp; Charges</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amt. Approved</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
#9106-30490.0000 Computer Services/Install	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	7	0

Explanation: Per Sara Lochner, Chief Probation Officer: Corrisoft/Paperless Business Solutions (PBS) is the case management system that our Community Corrections program is currently utilizing and as part of the collaboration plan, we intend to improve our infrastructure by aligning our case management systems. The current balance in the computer services line item will cover the cost of PBS creating specific software for Wabash County, however, it will not be enough to cover the cost of installation of a new server to support the case management services. We have worked with our local IT provider to come up with an appropriate solution to the implementation of the program and the above request is enough to cover the costs. This project will help further our collaborative efforts and our transition to a unified court services system. We are requesting to transfer money from Personal Services to Other Services & Charges in the amount of \$13,000.00.

Markstahler asked if there were other quotes received. He stated that traditionally, Council has always required three quotes when the amount is over \$5,000.00 so that all vendors are considered and accountable. Haines stated that no additional quotes were sought because Intrasect has always maintained the server and has been knowledgeable of the programming. Ridenour stated that the County has a contract with Intrasect and this may fall under those services. Haines stated that long term maintenance will fall under the Intrasect contract.

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

**DECREASE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS/PROBATION GRANT FUND - #9107**

<b>Personal Services</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amt. Approved</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
#9106-11705.0000 Probation Officer	\$10,061.00	\$10,061.00	7	0

**INCREASE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS/PROBATION GRANT FUND - #9107**

<b>Capital Outlay</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amt. Approved</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
#9107-40400.0000 Computer Equipment	\$10,061.00	\$10,061.00	7	0

Explanation: Per Sara Lochner, Chief Probation Officer: Corrisoft/Paperless Business Solutions (PBS) is the case management system that our Community Corrections program is currently utilizing and as part of the collaboration plan, we intend to improve our infrastructure by aligning our case management systems. We have worked with our local IT provider to come up with an appropriate solution to the implementation of the program and the above request is enough to cover the costs. This project will help further our collaborative efforts and our transition to a unified court services system. We are requesting to transfer \$10,061.00 from Personal Services to Capital Outlay for data processing equipment and to cover the costs of installation and setup of the new system. PBS will require the purchase of a new server and hardware.

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

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted this 23<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016 by the above aye and nay vote.

**AMENDMENT TO THE 2016 SALARIES AND WAGES  
ORDINANCE #2016-85-02**

**WHEREAS, Public Law No. 231 requires County Council to fix Salaries of County Officials and Employees for the year.**

**Sec. 1. Be it ordained by the Wabash County Council of Wabash County, IN that the Salaries and Wages of County Officials and Employees and it's institutions for the year ending December 31, 2016 are as follows:**

	Amount Requested To be reduced	Amount Approved for reduction	AYE	NAY
<b>CC/COURT RRP GRANT FUND</b>				
#9106-11118.000.000 Probation Officer	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	7	0
#9106-11808.000.000 Probation Officer	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	7	0
<b>CC/PROBATION GRANT FUND</b>				
#9107-11705-000-000 Probation Officer	\$10,061.00	\$10,061.00	7	0

**C. Markstahler asked how personal services/salaries could be cut for the individuals involved. Haines explained that the approved salaries were based on a full year, but the grant was awarded mid-year, so not all the funds will be needed to fund salaries this year.**

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

**Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 23rd day of May, 2016 by the above aye & nay vote.**

Ridenour stated that Council will be considering an additional appropriation of a new JDAI Grant Fund in the amount of \$55,000 at the June Council meeting. Probation Officer Trisha Hanes and Circuit Court Judge Robert McCallen were present to explain the JDAI program. Haines explained that the JDAI-Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative program funded by a grant from the Indiana Department of Correction will focus on the youth population and low-risk offenders moving to community-based alternatives. Circuit Court Judge McCallen explained that in talking with other JDAI judges that have had the JDAI Initiative program in place for years at a March conference which was also attended by IV-D Prosecutor Al Plummer, Public Defender Jill Denman, Law Enforcement representative Matt Bruss, Service Provider Jay Driscoll, Chief Probation Officer Sarah Lochner and Probation Officer Haines, it was suggested that Sara Lochner and Trisha Hanes be co-coordinators of the grant. Other counties the size of Wabash County have laid the groundwork. He stated that the addition of new probation officers funded by the Community Corrections/Probation Grant Funds will allow time for Sara and Trisha to take on the extra juvenile work required by the program. He said that some counties have hired additional staff but Wabash County had chosen this way based on other counties comparable to our area. The benefits of two coordinators will be that they are serving the youth of the community and that they already have the knowledge of the juvenile system. He stated how important it is to reach youth in elementary school and not waiting until junior-high age. Judge McCallen voiced his concern that a new Department of Child Services director for Wabash County has not yet been appointed by the State and that this appointment could be pending until September. He said that this is unacceptable because the JDAI program involves the Dept. of Child

Services. He asked that contact be made with our State representatives as to why this hasn't been done.

Ridenour explained that the Grant amount of \$55,000 will be mostly for personal services and will be divided among four people instead of hiring more staff. The time spent tutoring new staff to implement the program would be wasted in light of the two coordinators already having the knowledge to initiate the program. Haines stated that only 6 counties out of the 32 that currently have the JDAI program have hired additional staff and those are much larger counties. Haines stated that the JDAI grant is a three-year funded grant with the first year focusing on data collection, the second year focusing on initiating the program, and the third year evaluating the program for effectiveness and so by the end of the grant, an effective program should be in place and sustaining itself. Dawes asked what will happen when the grant expires. Haines & Judge McCallen stated that the programing will be developed that can sustain itself. Ridenour stated that this salary increase paid by grant funding was directed to the Salary and Wage Committee for their recommendation.

County Commissioner and Drainage Board member, Brian Hauptert stated that the Wabash County Drainage Board has approved Resolution #2016-85-05 requesting the Wabash County Council to obtain a loan in the amount of \$281,511.00 to finance the reconstruction of the Albert Drudge Drain, located in Chester Township and within the Town of North Manchester. Hauptert stated that drainage board hearings have been held so that affected landowners are aware of the loan and ditch assessment increases to follow in order to repay the loan within a five year period. He submitted the following resolution:

**WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2016-85-06**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LOAN TO FINANCE RECONSTRUCTION  
OF THE ALBERT DRUDGE DRAIN**

**The Wabash County Drainage Board has determined that it will cost up to Two Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Five Hundred Eleven Dollars (\$281,511.00) to reconstruct the Albert Drudge Drain.**

**This cost is an amount that the owners of the land to be assessed may conveniently pay in installments over a five (5) year period.**

**Having made such determinations, the Drainage Board, under IC 36-9-27-97.5 has asked the County Council to obtain a loan from a bank, trust company, savings association, or savings bank authorized to engage in business in Wabash County, to finance such reconstruction, with the interest on the loan part of the final assessment under IC 36-9-27-84(a) and, notwithstanding IC 36-9-27-85(c), with interest on the loan charged back to the benefitted landowner at a rate that is set in accordance with IC 36-9-27-97.5 (b).**

**Any loan obtained under IC 36-9-27-97.5 (1) must have a fixed or variable interest rate; (2) must mature within six (6) years after the day it is obtained; (3) shall be repaid from installments collected from assessments of landowners over a five (5) year period; and (4) is not subject to the provisions of IC 36-9-27-94 that concern interest.**

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED:**

**That the Wabash County Council shall obtain a loan in the amount of up to Two Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Five Hundred Eleven Dollars (\$281, 511.00) to reconstruct the Albert Drudge Drain, with the interest on the loan part of the final assessment under IC 36-9-27-84(a), and, notwithstanding IC 36-9-27-85(c), with interest on the loan charged back to the benefitted landowners at a rate that is set in accordance with IC 36-9-27-97.5 (b).**

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2016.

**WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Mike Ridenour, Chairman**

Dawes made a motion to approve the resolution as submitted. Bowman seconded the motion and it passed by five (5) in favor, one (1) vote against, and one (1) abstention. Dillon voted against the motion and Ruppel abstained from the vote because the drain affects his property.

In accordance with the Uniform Internal Control Standards for Indiana Political Subdivisions as created and directed by the State Board of Accounts, Council member Dawes made a motion to appoint Randy Curless as the Council's representative to the Wabash County Internal Control Committee. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

In regard to the proposed amendment to the existing Rainy Day Ordinance which currently deposits funds for the construction of a new jail to the Rainy Day Fund; no action was taken. Ruppel suggested that a special fund be dedicated for the funding of new jail construction no matter where the funds originate in order to show that an attempt is being made to address the jail overcrowding issue and the process is being started. Ridenour suggested that since unexpended money won't be transferred until the beginning of 2017, the new Council members elected this November may want some input into the jail construction issue. Commissioner Hauptert stated that the next step beyond the feasibility study is getting financial advisor recommendations and that this information could influence decisions about the jail funds. Discussion followed regarding the use of LOIT funds and/or property tax in relation to a referendum and/or a state mandate.

Ruppel mentioned that in light of the primary election results, other Council members besides he and Mr. Ridenour will need to attend upcoming State meeting on June 18 about budgeting and Gateway Training by the DLGF to be held in Kosciusko County on June 17.

Councilman Dillon asked how the 75% of the county's CEDIT special distribution infrastructure money is going to be used and what the process of request will be. Dillon noted that some dirt roads in the County need attention. Commissioner Hauptert stated that the Commissioners need to complete an assessment package of the roads and bridges for matching 50/50 money. He stated that the bridge package will most likely be completed first. There is currently no formal request process in place.

Council reviewed:

Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports for April 2016

April 2016 Wabash County Solid Waste Management District Income & Expense Statement

With no other business to come before the Wabash County Council, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2016.

**The following individuals also attended the May 23th Council meeting:**

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

Chief Deputy Auditor Marcie Shepherd, Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube, County Commissioners Brian Haupert, and Scott Givens, Attorney Steve Downs, Attorney Mark Frantz, Lorissa Sweet, Purdue Extension Director Teresa Witkoske, Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Mackenzie Klemann, The Paper reporter, Emma Rausch, and "105.9 The Bash" radio reporter, Tim Arnett.