

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, January 23, 2017 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Jeff Dawes called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Seven Council members were present: Dawes, Randy Curless, Matt Dillon, Kyle Bowman, Lorissa Sweet, Philip Dale, and Matthew Mize. Dawes 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 Dawes 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 January 9, 2017 organizational meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Chairman Dawes introduced former County Councilman and former State Representative Bill Ruppel who has been contracted by the Wabash County Commissioners to serve as a lobbyist on behalf of Wabash County at the Statehouse. Ruppel explained that he would be working with legislative services to compose a bill for a special tax for the purpose of funding a new jail facility which would be outside the maximum allowed property tax levy. He stated that for the current legislative session, the bill may need to be presented as an amendment to another tax bill. He explained that current Wabash County representatives are "on board" with support but a joint resolution would need to be submitted to the Ways and Means Committee at the State. A joint meeting of the Commissioners and Council is scheduled for February in order to discuss and explain all financial options.

The next order of business was the presentation of the 2016 Wabash County Jail report by Sheriff Bob Land. The report included housing information, booking statistics, jail incidents, staff program services, transports, unfunded needs and maintenance. Land stated that there were 1,247 facility admissions in 2016 compared to 1,183 in 2015 and the average daily population in 2016 was 83.21 inmates compared to 83.98 in 2015. There was a total of 365 days during 2016 in which the jail facility was over its' rated capacity of 72 inmates which results in the need to house inmates in other counties. The 2016 population average for all facilities (Wabash, Miami, and Elkhart counties) was 130.27. The report listed the top ten incarceration offenses of 2016 and "Drugs with associated charges" is the number one county offense. Land reported that there were 423 jail incidents in 2016 compared to 147 in 2015. Medical expenses for 2016 totaled \$118,414 compared to \$102,266 in 2015 with the increase due to the state-mandated Medicaid program, Bowen Center mental health evaluations, and dental expenses. During 2016, the Sheriff's

department made 1,167 transports between DOC facilities, medical facilities and other jail facilities per warrants and court orders as compared to 738 transports in 2015. Land stated that current and future needs within the jail facility are security door repairs, repair or replacement of air conditioning units and ventilation fans, and the entire heating and cooling systems. Also needed is an upgrade of the entire lighting system which is insufficient and doesn't meet requirements. Serious problems with plumbing needs to be addressed and roof leaks continue. Land stated that in 2015, \$337,000 from the LOIT Public Safety Fund was spent to transport inmates for housing in other counties and in 2016, the expenses to transfer inmates using LOIT Public Safety monies was \$640,813

The next order of business was the reappointment of Gary Wood to the local Alcoholic Beverage Board for a term of one year. Dillon made a motion to approve the reappointment, Mize 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: Sheriff Bob Land, Central Dispatch Director Sandy Beeks, and Chief Probation Officer Sara Lochner.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE #2017-01

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, 2017 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:

CEDIT FUND #1112

	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Appropriated</u>		
CASA Grant matching funds				
#1112-30242.000.0000	\$29,500.00	\$29,500.00	7	0
Liability Insurance				
#112-30420.000.0000	\$285,000.00	\$285,000.00	7	0

Explanation: These expenses were cut from the General Fund at budget approval with the expectation that the CEDIT Fund would need appropriations after January 1, 2017 to pay the costs.

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

LOIT PUBLIC SAFETY FUND #1170

LOIT PUBLIC SAFETY FUND	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
City Ambulance #1170-30940.000.0000	\$182,850.00	\$182,850.00	7	0

Explanation: The City Ambulance expense was cut from the General Fund at budget approval with the expectation that LOIT Public Safety Fund would need to appropriate the cost after January 1, 2017.

Per Sheriff Land: The K-9 Program cost is a total of \$31,000; one-half was additionally appropriated in 2016, this is the other half of the expense.

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

RIVERBOAT/COUNTY SHARE FUND- #1191

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
County Ambulance #1191-30950-000.0000	\$186,588.00	\$186,588.00	7	0

Explanation: The County Ambulance expense was cut from the General Fund at budget approval with the expectation that the Riverboat Fund would need appropriation after January 1, 2017 to pay this cost.

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

STATEWIDE 911 FUND -#1222

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Capital Outlay-Dispatch Equipment #1222-1150240060.000.000	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	7	0

Explanation submitted by Central Dispatch Director Sandy Beeks: This expense was not submitted at budget time; oversight when budget was prepared.

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

ADULT PROBATION ADMINISTRATION FEE FUND - #2000

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Probation Officer – C. Ulmer #2000-11502.000.0000	\$44,982.00	\$44,982.00	7	0
Probation Officer – M. Kurtz #2000-11804.000.0000	\$45,038.00	\$45,038.00	7	0

Explanation submitted by Chief Probation Officer Sara Lochner: Need appropriation for the salaries of probation officers for the 2017 calendar year. Per Auditor's Office: these expenses were removed from the General Fund's budget during budget hearings and expected to be paid by the Administration Fee Fund since the cash balance was more than adequate. Now, must approve an additional appropriation in order to budget the expense.

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

JUVENILE PROBATION ADMINISTRATION FEE FUND #2050

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Probation Officer – S. Gatchel (partial salary) #2050-11118.000.0000	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	7	0

Explanation submitted by Chief Probation Officer Sara Lochner: Need appropriation for the partial salary of probation officer for the 2017 calendar year. Per Auditor's Office: this expense was removed from the General Fund's budget during budget hearings and expected to be paid by the Administration Fee Fund since the cash balance was more than adequate. Now, must approve an additional appropriation in order to budget the expense.

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

COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION FUND #4801

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Computer Maintenance (Software & Hardware repairs/upgrades) #4801-30502.000.0000	\$322,000.00	\$322,000.00	7	0

Explanation: The computer maintenance expense was removed from the General Fund at budget time with the expectation that the County Special Distribution Fund would need to appropriate the cost after January 1, 2017.

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

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE FUND #8850

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Travel & Mileage #8850-30230.000.0000	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	7	0

Explanation: The expense was removed from the 2017 County Health (#1159) budget with the expectation that this SPHI fund could appropriate the cost after January 1, 2017 since it has an adequate cash balance of over \$40,700.00.

Dale made a motion to approve the request for an additional appropriation. Dillon 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 January, 2017 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 2017 Salary Ordinance:

AMENDMENT #2017-1A TO THE 2017 SALARIES AND WAGE 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, 2017 are as follows:

<u>Fund and Title of Position/Classification</u>	<u>Rate of Pay</u>
ADULT PROBATION ADMINISTRATION FEES FUND #2000	
Probation Officer – Chad Ulmer #2000-11502.000.0000	\$44,982.00
Probation Officer – Megan Kurtz #2000-11804.000.0000	\$45,038.00
JUVENILE PROBATION ADMINISTRATION FEES FUND #2050	
Probation Officer – Steve Gatchel #2050-11118.000.0000 (partial salary)	\$15,000.00

Signed by County Council

Dated this 23rd day of January, 2017

Attested by the Wabash County Auditor, Marcie Shepherd

Dillon made a motion to approve the salary ordinance amendment as submitted. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

The next order of business was the consideration of encumbrances from 2016 into 2017. County Auditor Shepherd presented the encumbrances as follows: General Fund: Total \$10,134.14, including Coroner final cell phone expense for outgoing elected official in the amount of \$346.14, Drainage Board contract for watershed drain layer in the amount of \$6,488.00 and G.I.S. contract for countywide photography layer in the amount of \$3,300.00. CEDIT \$33,687.81 for economic development, Cum. Bridge \$519,690.74 for ongoing bridge project contract, Surveyor Cornerstone Perpetuation \$4,205.00 for professional services, and SPHI Grant Fund \$1,695.40 for equipment which was additionally appropriated in 2016 but department didn't receive invoice until 2017. Dillon made a motion to approve the encumbrances as requested. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

The next order of business was the approval/appointment of Council members to various boards and committees for the 2017 year. Dale made a motion to approve the following appointments. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Community Corrections Board: K. Bowman
 E-911 Board & Solid Waste Board: M. Dillon
 Emergency Management & LEPC Board: P. Dale
 GIS Board & Region 3A Board: J. Dawes
 County Health Board: L. Sweet
 Job Classification/Salary Personnel Committee: M. Mize
 Plan Commission Board: R. Curless
 Tax Abatement Board: R. Curless & J. Dawes

Also approved was the appointment of Bill Parker to the Laketon Area Regional Sewer Board for a one year extension of his term. Dale made a motion for approval, Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

The next order of business was the possible transfer of funds from unappropriated cash balances. County Auditor Shepherd presented the unappropriated balances from the General Fund, CAGIT, CEDIT, Cum. Capital Development, LOIT Public Safety, Rainy Day, Riverboat, and County Special Distribution Funds for review by Council. Since the earlier approved additional appropriations will appropriate money from the cash balances from the CEDIT, LOIT Public Safety, and the Riverboat Funds, Chairman Dawes suggested reviewing the amounts at the next (February) meeting after the Auditor's office could revise the fund balances.

Council reviewed:

December 2016 Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports

December 2016 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 February 27, 2017.

The following individuals also attended the January 23rd Council meeting:

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

Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube, County Commissioner Brian Haupt, Barry Eppley and Scott Givens, Attorney Mark Frantz, Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Mackenzie Klemann, and The Paper reporter, Emma Rausch.