

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, August 29, 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, Matt Dillon, Jeff Dawes, 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 July 25, 2016 meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote with Markstahler abstaining due to his absence from the July meeting.

The next order of business was the Transfer of Funds request. Present for the request was County Coroner Carol Whitesel.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION 2016-03

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 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: GENERAL FUND - #1000

County Coroner

Other Services & Charges	Amount Requested	Amt. Approved	AYE	NAY
#1000-30270.0007 Internet Expense	\$250.00	\$250.00	7	0

INCREASE: GENERAL FUND - #1000

County Coroner -Other Supplies

County Coroner -Other Supplies	Amount Requested	Amt. Approved	AYE	NAY
#1000-22400-0007 Biohazard Supplies	\$250.00	\$250.00	7	0

Explanation: Needing to order more body bags to get through the year.

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

Chairman Ridenour reported that County Coordinator Jim Dils, on behalf of the County Commissioners requested the appointment of up to three Council members to serve on the Jail Study Committee in time for a meeting in September. Council members Jeff Dawes, Bill Ruppel, and Kyle Bowman volunteered to serve on the committee. Ridenour recommended and it was Council's consensus that one of the county's judges and/or a probation representative also serve on the committee in order to give input regarding needs of the jail.

Christine Flohr, Director of the Wabash County Convention and Visitors Bureau was in attendance for questions or comments regarding the Bureau's 2017 budget. Council had been emailed the 2017 budget for review. She stated that there are no changes to the budget from the one she presented a few months ago. Council had no questions.

The next order of business was the review of the estimated property tax levy limits and the estimated reductions due to circuit breakers for each local governmental unit and Council's recommendations for the taxing units as per IC 6-1.1-17-3.6. Chairman Ridenour read the requirements of Council to review the levies and the circuit breaker revenue losses for the 2017 budgets. As of the date of this meeting, the City of Wabash, the Town of LaFontaine, Liberty Township, and MSD School Corporation had not submitted an advertised budget on Gateway in order for Council to review levies and circuit breaker reductions. He asked for comments from any local taxing unit representative present at the meeting. Town of North Manchester Clerk-Treasurer, Carrie Mugford was present but had no comment. Ridenour pointed out that the growth quotient for 2017 recommended by the state is 3.8%, but the County will probably stay closer to the county's 2.5% growth. County Council had been given copies and reviewed local governmental unit's proposed budgets, rates and levies and recommended that final adopted budgets not exceed Wabash County's 2.5% growth. Ruppel made a motion to approve Council's recommendations to apply to all 2017 budgets of Wabash County's local governmental units. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote. Council directed the Auditor to send the meeting minutes after approval by the fiscal body to each local governmental unit as per IC 6-1.1-17-3.6.

Chief Deputy Auditor Marcie Shepherd encouraged Council members to email DLGF Budget Agency Deputy Director, Dan Jones to get clarification of the 3.8% recommended levy growth versus the county growth rate of 2.5% since the County's budget hearings would begin next week. Shepherd had spoken by phone to Jones last week about budget issues and at that time, he explained the growth percentage used by the DLGF when approving 2017 budgets.

Council reviewed:

July 2016 Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports

July 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 2017 budget hearings are scheduled for September 6th, 7th, and 8th. The next Council meeting and the 2017 budget adoption hearing is scheduled for September 26, 2016.

The following individuals also attended the August 29th meeting:

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

Chief Deputy Auditor Marcie Shepherd, Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube, Attorney Mark Frantz, Carrie Mugford, Christine Flohr, Philip Dale, Lorissa Sweet, Teresa Witkoske, Christa Stroup, Kent Dyson, The Paper reporter, Emma Rausch, and Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Mackenzi Klemman.

