

OCTOBER 10, 2007

The Wabash County Council met in **Special Session** on Wednesday, October 10, 2007. Prayer was offered by Jim Kaltenmark. Chairman Bob Fuller called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with all members present: Dean Eppley, Bob Fuller, Jim Kaltenmark, Ted Little, Claude Markstahler, Gary Nose and Mike Ridenour. County Auditor Jane Ridgeway recorded the minutes of the meeting.

Also in attendance were Wabash County Board of Commissioners: Lester Templin, Brian Hauptert and Scott Givens. Brian Colton represented of Umbaugh & Associates. Approximately 25 taxpayers were present.

The Council called this special meeting to consider Local Option Income Tax plans provided to counties by House Enrolled Act 1478 for property tax relief. Chairman Fuller introduced Brian Colton, Certified Public Accountant with Umbaugh & Associates who gave a summary of the three tax options: Levy Growth Income Tax, Property Tax Relief Income Tax and Public Safety Income Tax. He explained to the public that County Councils may choose to adopt one of the three options or a combination of the three income taxes by December 31, 2007.

Several of those in attendance voiced their questions, views and concerns about the tax options and Wabash County Property Taxes and assessments. Council members answered questions and expressed their understanding and views of the options available.

Following the discussion, Little made the motion to pass Part 1 (Levy Growth Income) at 1% and Part 2 (Property Tax Relief) at the maximum rate of 1% to shift county revenues from Property Tax to Income Tax to be applied Universally (across the board) to all taxpayers. Eppley asked to clarify the rates Little specified in his motion as a total of 2% then seconded the motion. Council discussed the motion and Ridenour stated he felt the Property Tax Relief percentage should be applied only to Homesteads properties. More discussion followed until Chairman Fuller called for a vote on the motion.

Little then moved to table his original motion until more research and information could be gathered. Ridenour seconded this request and the original motion was tabled on a 7-0 vote of the Council. Little expressed his appreciation to the public for their interest and views then asked that they and others contact the Council members. He stated he felt it is "important for everyone to understand what we are thinking" and how these tools available to counties at this time can and may be used and the effect they could have on future taxes and budgets.

Eppley then made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kaltenmark. The meeting adjourned on a vote of 7/0. The next meeting will be the regular session at 8:00 A.M. on Monday, October 22nd.