

## **JANUARY 28, 2013**

The Wabash County Council met in regular session on Monday, January 28, 2013 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Claude Markstahler opened with a word of prayer. James Kaltenmark led in the pledge of allegiance. Kaltenmark called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. with all members present: Kaltenmark, Randy Curless, Gary Nose, Jeff Dawes, Claude Markstahler, Bill Ruppel and Mike Ridenour. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Chief Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube due to the illness of Wabash County Auditor Linda Conrad.

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the January 2, 2013 meeting. Ruppel made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; his motion was seconded by Dawes and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Kaltenmark opened the floor for public comments regarding agenda items. No comments were presented.

Bill Konyha, President and CEO of EDG of Wabash County, Inc. presented the 2012 Annual Report of the Economic Development Group. Included in the report were the year-to-date summary of attraction and expansion leads, a project scorecard, project valuation and current and future projects. Konyha explained that the year was a good one but not a great one in which progress was made on a number of levels. He reported that the average wage for new jobs in Wabash County is \$16.49/hour based on 2,000 hours per year and compares to an average current wage of \$15.36/hour. He stated that there are currently 19 active projects carried forward into 2013. He stated that the EDG is conducting educational attainment research that is critical to business attraction. Discussion with council members included the granting of residential abatement, current economic development projects and fees. Konyha reviewed an example of current residential credits available and he stated that he would like to see a program developed for assisting homeowners. He suggested some options for attracting homeowners to keep capital local and what the EDG is currently doing to attract income to Wabash County such as the availability and installation of fiber optic cabling. Council member Nose asked if any local taxing unit is ever responsible for company or corporation bond payments if the company goes out of business. Konyha stated governmental back-up has happened in Wabash County but only with very credit-worthy companies and in a highly public venue. Konyha stated that this year, he will be reporting quarterly to the Council regarding the progress of the EDG.

Steve Downs, County Attorney introduced a proposed Council ordinance regarding the Manchester University 2013 tax exempt revenue bond financings in the amount of 4,000,000 to be used to refinance the Indiana Educational Facilities Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2002 and in the

amount of \$5,000,000.00 to be utilized to pay the costs of the recently completed renovations of the Academic Center of Manchester University. Downs stated that there is no financial obligation on the part of the County; that Manchester University is only utilizing the county's tax exempt status. Ridenour made a motion to approve Ordinance #2013-85-02. The motion was seconded by Curless; it passed by a vote of 6/0. Ruppel abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest because of serving on councils of Manchester University. Downs said that the final copy of the ordinance would be prepared for signing by the Council on February 25, 2013.

The next order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation requests as advertised:

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS  
ORDINANCE 2013 NO. I**

**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 expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same:**

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
<b><u>COUNTY GENERAL FUND</u></b>				
<b><u>Co. Extension- #1000-0020</u></b>				
Personal Services				
Part-time Clerical & Summer Assistant	\$3,000	0	7	0

Teresa Witkoske, County Extension Director explained the following additional appropriation request as stated: Due to the 4-H youth educator vacancy in the County, we need additional hours from the current county-paid staff. Purdue Extension Ag Administration is returning a salary savings check for \$5,983.59 of which I am requesting that \$3,000.00 be paid as outlined above.

Council asked when the youth educator position would be filled. Witkoske stated that Purdue is currently seeking qualified candidates but that the process is taking time. Several Council members agreed that since the funding for these positions was decreased in the approval of the 2013 budget, then any additional appropriation approval would be a contradiction to that funding decrease. Markstahler made a motion to use the funds currently available in the departmental budget and to deny the additional appropriation at this time. Curless seconded the motion; it passed by a vote of 7/0.

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
<b>RAINY DAY FUND #1186</b>				
Appraisal Expenses – Other services and charges	\$58,480.00	\$58,480.00	6	1*

**Explanation: County Assessor, Kelly Schenkel explained the additional appropriation request: There is no money remaining in the Cumulative Reappraisal Fund for the 2012 reassessment of property since over \$250,000.00 was taken out of the Fund to help with the expenses of the Geographical Information System (GIS). Although that money was very well spent, I need money to continue the reassessment process. Unfortunately, the 2017 Reassessment Fund cannot be used until the year 2015.**

Ruppel stated that after discussing the situation with Schenkel, this additional appropriation request is an emergency situation because of current invoices that need to be paid. He suggested that all departmental officials should be making Council aware whenever changes are made in departmental funds so that Council has all the facts when considering requests and budgets. Ridenour made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request from the Rainy Day Fund. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a vote of 6/1 with Markstahler voting against the motion.

Lori Draper, County Recorder requested a consensus of the Council to approve the purchase of computer equipment. She explained that the request for additional appropriations did not get advertised in time for today's meeting, but that the computer equipment is failing and she needs to get it replaced. Draper stated that the \$6,928.11 purchase will be funded from the Recorder's Records Perpetuation Fund in the amount of \$2,000.00 and from the Security Protection Fund in the amount of \$5,000.00 with no funds to come out of the General Fund. Council's consensus was to approve the Recorder's funding request with official action to be taken at February's Council meeting.

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
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**WABASH COUNTY POLICE PENSION FUND #1193**

<b>Personal Services</b>				
- Sheriff's Pension Fund – November, 2012	\$1,721	\$ 2,711	7	0

**Explanation: Civil Process Collections for the month of November 2012: Clerk's Office Civil Process Collections - \$988.00 Sheriff Dept. Civil Process Collections - \$133.00; Sheriff Sale Proceeds for November - \$600.00**

Curless made a motion to approve request; his motion was seconded by Dawes and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Sheriff Bob Land submitted the Wabash County Sheriff's Department year-end report for review. He stated that a new Deputy and an Assistant Jail Commander had been hired. He reported that the department had received two GED program grants in 2012 and stated that the State Legislature is currently addressing Indiana's criminal codes.

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
<b><u>DRUG-FREE COMMUNITY GRANT FUND</u></b>				
Other Services & Charges	\$24,055.00	\$24,055.00	7	0

Explanation for request: See 2013 Grant summary from Wabash County Aaction organization.

Ridenour made a motion to approve the request; the motion was seconded by Ruppel and passed by a 7/0 vote.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 28th of January 2013 by the above aye and nay vote.

The next order of business was to address Transfer of Appropriations requests:

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION  
NO. 2013-85-01**

**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, 2013 the following additional 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:

	Amount Requested	Amount Appropriated	AYE	NAY
<b>DECREASE:</b>				
<b>GROSSNICKLE LOCAL MATCH</b>				
4901-45620-000-0000 Capital Outlay	\$5,991.23	\$5,991.23	7	0

**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:

<b>INCREASE:</b>				
<b>GROSSNICKLE PROJECT RETAINAGE</b>				
4902-03000-000-0000 Grossnickle Project Retainage	\$290.00	\$290.00	7	0

Explanation for request: Draw #4, Local Match (35.9%) = \$53,921.08 Retainage Local Match = \$5,991.23. Transfer retainage from Local Match to Retainage Fund for Grossnickle Reconstruction Project.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 28th day January, 2013, by the above aye and nay vote.

Encumbering of Funds: Due to the illness and absence of County Auditor Conrad, Chief Deputy Auditor, B.J. Grube submitted the encumbering of funds into 2013 for approval. With the approval of Auditor Conrad, Grube suggested that Council may want to consider some possible limiting of requested encumbrances because of the increasing total amounts being approved into departmental budget each year. She suggested that

contracted services and part-time wages are traditionally the only items that should be encumbered into a new year with December invoices to be paid out of the new budget year. She stated that this would just be a change in procedure and that the departments would not be losing any budgeted amounts from each departmental budget because the December invoices would be paid from the new budget year and so forth for each future year. Grube stated that the amount of preparation done by each department and by the Auditor's office each year to meet the encumbering deadline would be greatly reduced. It would insure that encumbering would include only contracted items that must be carried forward into a new budget year because the project has not been completed. Council members discussed this suggestion and decided to address this further at budget hearings. Ruppel made a motion to approve the encumbrances as submitted for this year. Nose seconded the motion; it passed by a vote of 7/0.

**COUNCIL REVIEWED:**

- Council member contacts with county departments for 2013
- Approved budget hearing meeting dates: August 20, and 21, 2013 at 12:00 Noon, August 22 at 4:00 P.M.
- Approved the non-binding review date for September 5, 2013.
- Appointment to the Convention and Visitors Board: Ruppel made a motion to appoint Daryl Evans to the CVB. Ridenour seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 7/0

Ridenour made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ruppel and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

**The following individuals also attended the January 28<sup>th</sup> Council meeting:**

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

County Commissioners: Barry Eppley, Scott Givens and Brian Hauptert

Chief Deputy Auditor, B.J. Grube

Bonnie Corn

Jim Dixon

Louella Krom