

JANUARY 23, 2006

The Wabash County Council met January 23, 2006 at 8:00 A.M. in the former Circuit Court Room of the Wabash County Courthouse for their first meeting of the new year. Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway called the meeting to order with all Council members present. She opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Council for the year 2006. Ted Little nominated Bob Fuller for Chairman, his motion was seconded by Dean Eppley. Leon Ridenour moved that the nominations for Chairman be closed, seconded by Gary Nose. Fuller was elected Chairman by a 7-0 vote. Chairman Fuller then took charge of the meeting and opened the nominations for Vice Chairman. Nose nominated Leon Ridenour for the position, seconded by Eppley. A motion to close the nominations was made by Paul Bergman and seconded by Little. Ridenour was elected to service as Vice Chairman by a 7-0 vote.

Leon Ridenour offered prayer. Council then reviewed the minutes of both the December 5, 2005 regular meeting and the December 20th special meeting. Bergman moved to approve the minutes of both meetings, seconded by Little and approved by a 7-0 vote.

Judge Robert McCallen of Wabash Circuit Court and Judge Christopher Goff of Wabash Superior Court addressed the Council with updates on the court system. They expressed their appreciation to the Council for the past year funding requests and explained some of the changes they have accomplished and hope to accomplish in the coming year:

1. The Circuit and Superior Court budgets have been combined for Public Defenders and will be paid as Contractual Agreements this year rather than by individual cases.
2. The ordinance passed for cost of confinement has been used a couple of times this year.
3. Thanked the Council for the Cell Phone Ordinance.
4. Reported court cases were slightly up (+46) in 2005 from 2004.
5. Judicial center saw a 3% increase in visitors by security from 2004 to 2005.
6. The Law Library expenses should decrease this year due to an agreement with the local Bar Association providing two access terminals located at the Wabash Library and the North Manchester Library. This will be one way to meet the budget reductions.
7. The jury selection process now comes from the BMV through changes by the state.
8. Judge McCallen stated he had concluded a wonderful year with support from Clerk of the Courts Lori Draper and Superior Court Judge Goff.
9. They will not be replacing the Title IV-D Commissioner and Court Reporter so this will not be in the 2007 budget.

- 10.Thanked all of the Council members for their support, especially Paul Sites.
 - 11.Noted some counties use plea agreements for dependents to repay the county for Public Defenders. Plea Agreements can be up to \$250. to offset Public Defender costs.
 - 12.Public Defender and Cash Bonds have been efficient with General Appearance bonds now generating \$50 to the County General Fund for each bond.
 - 13.Noted the contracts with local attorneys for Public Defenders will be 40% reimbursed by the state for felonies.
 - 14.Pleased with the Community Corrections program and the impact it has with employment as some means to work back into the community.
 - 15.The courts are now required to have a plan for Forensic Diversion Program or a Drug “Core” Program.
 - 16.They had tried to speed up the schedule for Small Claims with scheduling 5-6 an hour and the judgments are now handled by the attorneys.
 - 17.Superior Court is looking at a way to distribute Dissolution Cases more efficiently.
- Council members thanked the Judges for expanding services at reduced costs.

Dave Young presented the AACTION Grant requests for the year 2006. He noted that the Sheriff’s Department had withdrawn the request for \$4000. bringing the total of the grant requests to \$28,156. Bergman moved to approve the Grants as presented, seconded by Sites and they were approved by a 6 aye 0 nay vote with Little abstaining. Discussed were the indigent treatment costs by the Bowen Center. Ted Little questioned why an AACTION Grant should be given to the Bowen Center in addition to the budgeted amount of \$146,370 in the County General Fund and noted that the center also gets money from the school’s budgets also. It was suggested that this be addressed to the Council for ongoing requests next year. (See Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2006 No. I below.)

Wabash County Assessor Kelly Schenkel discussed a new Personal Property Tax Program with the Council. They discussed the recent communication received from the state DLFGE on data compliance requirements. Personal Property must now be put on a system and sent electronically. Schenkel had gotten two quotes and contacted other counties about options of entering their own data vs. hiring a company to do the data entry. The lowest quote of \$8500. from AS2 was recommended and she and her staff will enter the data themselves. The other quote from Manatron was approximately \$22,000. Schenkel and Auditor Jane Ridgeway discussed their efforts to comply with the state requirements of submitting past data and working to be able to convert to the 18-digit parcel numbers. Council asked for more details before approving the purchase of the Property Tax Program. Schenkel returned toward the end of the meeting and confirmed a firm price of \$8500. from AS2 with an annual

rate for updates of \$2650. The company quoted her two versions: (1) the “quick” version with her staff posting the entries and (2) the “normal” version. This would include the 03 pay 04 tax year and forward. The Council gave their “Consensus of Approval” for the Assessor to move forward with the planned purchase and project to comply with state requirements.

Community Corrections Director Jeff Hobson reported the end of year statistics. He is requesting a new Case Manager to be paid from Project Income as of July 1, 2006 they will not be allowed to pay this salary from grant money. Council discussed the referrals of the Work Release Program and success in finding jobs as well as the future plans of the program.

The Council then addressed the following Additional Appropriations Ordinance 2006-I as advertised and recorded below.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE 2006 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:

Amount Requested	Amount Appropriated	AYE	NAY
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COUNTY GENERAL

Sheriff

441 Capital Outlay – Motor Vehicles	=	\$ 2,546.62	\$ 2,546.62	7	0
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Sheriff’s department received an insurance reimbursement for damage to a vehicle. He has requested this be appropriated to replace a vehicle in his fleet.

Ridenour moved to approve the Sheriff’s request, seconded by Little and approved 7-0.

Prosecuting Attorney

371 Other Services & Charges – Office Rent		4,089.00	4,089.00	7	0
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371 Other Services & Charges – Photocopying		333.33	Withdrawn		
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These items were deleted from the 2006 budget for the reason that the Prosecuting Attorney’s office would be moving to the old Memorial Hall. That has not happened yet, and these expenses will be necessary for the month of February 2006.

Following discussion the request for the photocopying was withdrawn due to it not being cut from the 2006 budget. Sites moved to approve the rent amount, seconded by Eppley and approved by a 7-0 vote.

Prosecutor’s Project IV-D

241 Supplies – Photocopying		66.67	Withdrawn		
362 Other Services & Charges – Office Cleaning		220.00	Withdrawn		
371 Other Services & Charges – Office Rent		855.58	855.58	7	0

These items were deleted from the 2006 budget for the reason that the Prosecuting Attorney's Office would be moving to the old Memorial Hall. That has not happened yet, and these expenses will be necessary from the month of February 2006.

Following discussion the requests for the office cleaning and the photocopying were withdrawn as they were not cut from the 2006 budget. Little moved to approve the rent payment request from the IV-D budget, seconded by Eppley and approved by a 7-0 vote.

Wabash County Plan Commission

111 Personal Services – Director	5,827.25	5,827.25	7	0
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Chad Dilling retired and no request for additional appropriations was filed to pay his vacation and sick days.

Council has discussed that all retirement plans should be submitted prior to the new year's budget but this is not yet a written policy. They discussed with the Commissioners present that this should be written into the revised employee personnel policy. Little moved to approve the request stating he would like to come up with a recommendation on paying such liabilities before budget hearings this year. His motion was seconded by Bergman and approved by a 7-0 vote.

Jail

324 Other Services & Charges – Telephone	15,000.00	7,500.00	7	0
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Funds were not allotted for the telephone account because when the Jail budget was originally done, the telephone was going to be paid for out of the E911 budget. However, before that budget was submitted, the E911 Coordinator discovered the jail's telephone bill could not be paid with E911 funds. Therefore, neither budget received funds for the telephone.

Following discussion and review of the 2006 budget, Bergman moved to approve \$7500. of the request for the telephone expense, his motion was seconded by Little and approved 7-0.

County Commissioners

174 Personal Services – Sheriff's Pension	8,664.00	8,664.00	7	0
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For November 2005 claims served in Superior and Circuit Courts (\$4176.00) and December 2005 claims served in Superior and Circuit Courts (\$4488.00) .

Approved on a motion by Bergman, seconded by Little and a 7-0 vote.

COUNTY HEALTH

116 Personal Services – Environmental Specialist	1,040.00	1,040.00	7	0
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Mr. Omstead left in 2003 making \$28,070. Mrs. Swango is to make in 2006 \$27,030. This is the difference of \$1040.00 Per Dr. Pyle she has taken all the training required to earn the same pay as Mr. Ormstead did when he left in 2003.

120 Personal Services – Environmental Assistant	4,000.00	4,000.00	7	0
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This is per Dr. Pyle's request to bring her (Sharon Pattee) up to date for this new position. She is no longer working as a clerk. Sharon has taken many training opportunities for this position. Dr. Pyle has suggested raising the fee of birth and death certificates to \$7.00 each this would be a \$2.00 raise which would cover the \$4000. increase. Certified Birth requests for 05 were 1351; Death certificates fro 05 were 1952 Totaling \$6686.00 in revenue.

Following discussion, Bergman moved to approve the salary increases retroactively to January 1, 2006, seconded by Sites, and a 7-0 vote.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

114 Personal Services – Case Manager 27,992.12 14,000.00 7 0
Effective January 9, 2006, we will be hiring a Case Manager. We are requesting an additional appropriation to cover the salary.

Bergman moved to approve \$14,000. to cover the salary of the new case manager for six months, through the approved fiscal year for the Community Corrections Grant which will end June 30, 2006. This motion was seconded by Little and approved by a 7-0 vote.

COUNTY CORRECTIONS – MISDEMEANANT FUND

361 Other Services & Charges – Buildings & Structures 15,005.45 15,005.45 7 0
To appropriate the remaining balance of the Misdemeanant Fund to be used for Building Structure Repairs.

The council discussed that the SBA has appropriated annually for this year for building repair as these funds were received by the state for this purpose. Sites moved to approve the request, seconded by Eppley and approved by a 7-0 vote.

PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION FUND

441 Capital Outlay – Equipment 50,000.00 50,000.00 6 1
In preparation for the move to the new prosecutor’s office, there will be equipment that needs to be purchased in order to furnish the prosecutor’s office, such as chairs for the lobby, desks, chairs copy machines, break room table, refrigerator, and those types of items. Attached was a letter from the architect for the project, Jeff Kumfer.

Prosecutor Bill Hartley presented this request for office furniture to furnish his new office as a full-time prosecutor. Eppley moved to approve the request, seconded by Sites. Prior to the vote, Bergman and Little both expressed concerns about approving such an open, “carte-blanch” request. Hartley was questioned about the specific items that would be purchased, responding two copy machines: one for Title 4-D one for the Prosecutor; window blinds to be paid help from Title 4-D and half from the Prosecutor’s funds; desks, chairs and other needed office furniture to equip the offices. He stated he would need to order the furnishings immediately in order to have them delivered in time for the proposed move. Hartley also agreed he would take the invoices and quotes to the Commissioners and would provide a summary of the expenditures for the February Council meeting. Following the discussion, Eppley amended his motion to approve the purchases of the office equipment up to \$50,000. with the specific purchases to be approved by the Commissioners. The amended motion was seconded by Sites and approved by a 6 aye, 1 nay (Bergman) vote.

DRUG FREE COMMUNITY GRANTS FUND

301 Other Services & Charges – Youth Services Bureau	1,700.00	1,700.00	6	0
304 Other Services & Charges – Manchester College	6,764.00	6,764.00	6	0
306 Other Services & Charges - Hands of Hope	2,500.00	2,500.00	6	0
307 Other Services & Charges - Bowen Center	6,000.00	6,000.00	6	0
308 Other Services & Charges – Wabash County AACTI	2,500.00	2,500.00	6	0
309 Other Services & Charges – Southwood High School	900.00	900.00	6	0
310 Other Services & Charges – North Manchester Police	4,892.00	4,892.00	6	0
312 Other Services & Charges – Wabash County Sheriff	4,000.00	Withdrawn		
313 Other Services & Charges - Wabash High School	2,100.00	2,100.00	6	0
314 Other Services & Charges – Wabash County CASA	800.00	800.00	6	0

As noted in discussion above when Dave Young presented the recommended AACTION grant requests for the year 2006. These grant appropriations were approved as presented (with the exception of the \$4000. request for the Sheriff's department which was redrawn) on a motion by Bergman, seconded by Sites and a 6-0 vote with Little abstaining.

LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE FUND

361 Other Services & Charges – Building Repair	138.00	138.00	6	0
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This request was for paint and supplies to get the old VA room ready for the nurses to move into for their office.

Approved on a motion by Eppley, seconded by Little and a 7-0 vote.

**COUNTY HIGHWAY
Administration**

1111 Personal Services – Highway Superintendent	1,244.00	0
1112 Personal Services – Highway Foreman	1,266.00	0
1113 Personal Services - Highway Clerk	740.00	0

Maintenance & Repair

2111 Personal Services - Truck Drivers/Equipment Operators	12,230.00	0
2113 Personal Services – Sign Man	873.60	0

General & Undistributed

4111 Personal Services – Mechanics	1,830.40	0
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These amounts are requests to offset past cost increases incurred such as health insurance, cost of living, etc. and with respect to those who deserve recognition

Highway Supervisor Larry Rice presented these requests for employee increases the same as he had presented in the budget hearing requests for the year 2006 with a 5% increase over the 2005 salaries and wages. The Highway Foreman Phil Amones was given a 4% increase and all the rest were given 2% as other

county employees across the board. Nose stated that the 2006 Budget and Salaries were set in August and that the decision was made at budget time. Rice stated he did not agree with what was approved at budget time because he feels his employees deserve more compensation and that he has available funds within his highway accounts. Nose remarked that many of the county employees are doing an excellent job and are not compensated as well as maybe they should be but that all of this was taken into consideration when the Council labored to establish a workable budget for the year. Little noted that the timing for such a requested increase was not good as Rice was also recommending the county institute a new LOHUT (wheel) tax to bring in more revenue for road repairs and construction. Following discussion, Eppley moved to approve the salary increases as presented. This motion died for lack of a second. The salaries will remain as previously approved for the 2006 budget.

E – 911

412 Capital Outlay – Equipment	1,147.00	1,147.00	7	0
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Battery back-up system for north and south county fire radio repeaters.

Approved on a motion by Bergman, seconded by Little and a 7-0 vote.

CUMULATIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

361 Other Services & Charges – Building Repair	10,000.00	10,000.00	7	0
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For repairs and maintenance for /county Buildings as needed.

Approved on a motion by Eppley seconded by Bergman and a 7-0 vote.

The Council then considered Transfer Resolution No. 2006-1 for the following request.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. # 2006-1**

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, 2006 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
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COUNTY HEALTH FUND

INCREASE:

Personal Services – 118 Nurse Full-time \$ 13,771.00 \$ 13,771.00 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:

LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE FUND

DECREASE:

Personal Services – 113Part Time Hourly Nurse \$ 13,771.00 \$ 13,771.50 7 0

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 23rd day of January 2006. The Auditor was directed to present the above additional appropriations to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as by law provided.

Little moved to approve Transfer Resolution #2006-1; his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed on a 7-0 vote.

Also approved by the Council was the advertised Amended Salary and Wages Ordinance for County Employees for the Community Corrections new Case Manager position and the increases for the County Health Department positions as the follows on a motion by Eppley and seconded by Bergman.

**AMENDED
Salaries and Wages Ordinance
for County Employees**

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, 2006 are as follows:

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Position	Name	Rate of Bi-Weekly Salary	Total Annual Salary
01-14 Case Manager	Marti Striker	\$ 1,076.62	\$ 14,000.00 (Six Months)

COUNTY HEALTH FUND

Position	Name	Rate of Bi-Weekly Salary	Total Annual Salary
01-16 Environmental Specialist	Jennifer Swango	\$ 1,079.62	\$ 28,070.00
01-20 Environmental Assistant	Sharon Pattee	\$ 854.23	\$ 22,210.00

Dated this 23rd day of January, 2006

No other business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Eppley, seconded by Bergman and a 7-0 vote. The next meeting will be February 27, 2006. The council will meet on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse at 8:00 A.M.

Following the meeting, the Council and Commissioners heard a presentation by LTAP officials concerning LOHUT (Local Option Highway Use Tax). The informative presentation explained the taxing formula and what revenues could increase by the adopting county. Little stated he would work with Rice for specific road cost analysis comparison and Eppley asked for a breakdown of receipts and disbursements Wabash County has received from state MVH and LR&S funding. Sites stated he thought this is a decision that should be taken to the people if you want to know if they want it, suggesting a possible special meeting.