

MARCH 27, 2006

The Wabash County Council met in regular March 27, 2006 at 8:00 A.M. in the former Circuit Court Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Bob Fuller called the meeting to order with six Council members present. Leon Ridenour was absent due to family illness.

Paul Sites offered prayer. Bergman moved to approve the minutes of the February 27th meeting as written, seconded by Eppley and approved by a 6-0 vote following a statement by Chairman Fuller that due to an error in his judgment he did not vote at the last meeting but from this day forward he will vote the same as the other members.

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

The first request considered was for increase in pay for deputies in the various offices. Councilman Little stated that he has the greatest respect for all of our county employees but was disturbed the requests seemed to be for comparative salary increases and not for responsibilities of duties. He said he had compared job classifications to other counties and was convinced that Wabash County needs to move to "job classifications" and grading systems giving greater responsibility to department heads. Little noted that constant comparison of what others are making seems to be more prevalent in government and is not done in business where job performances and bonuses are usually up to department heads to distribute. Little thinks that makes sense. Little also suggested that at budget time the council and commissioners consider longevity being tied to a dollar amount and not as a percent of salary. Following his comments Little moved to deny the requests for all additional appropriations for deputies' salary increases. This motion was seconded by Sites. Discussion following with the Clerk and Sheriff both commenting that after all officials and department heads had been told at budget time that "across the board" raises of 2% were all the council could approve for 2006 due to the tight budget, regardless of the requests which were submitted based on various duties, they were shocked that the council had "changed the rules" last month by granting increases to some employees in some departments. Chairman Fuller commented that they were "entitled to be shocked but not to demand." Fuller also stated that as chairman he has the right to say that "no more salary adjustments are to be on the council agenda". Following discussion, the council voted 6 to 0 to approve the motion to deny all salary increases requested for deputies and secretaries. Nose asked for a copy of the job description book in the Auditor's office prior to budget time and Little suggested an executive session to be announced in April for discussion of personnel policies and salary adjustments. Mike Howard, new Planning Director, addressed the council concerning the fact that he as a new employee was working at a reduced pay rate for 180 days probation and had been led to expect that a request for an increase in his salary would be made prior to next year's budget. Nose stated that he felt the council must always consider requests and Fuller recanted that the council will consider any requests that come in.

Moving through the other additional appropriations requested for April, the Council considered the request from the Sheriff's department for additional funding for False Arrest Insurance. Bergman moved that this request be tabled due to it being submitted as a short-fall. He suggested there were too many irregularities and that the council members should have more information. This request was for "tail-end" insurance from the previous carrier to cover claims for the former policy period forward for a period of three years. The previous insurance was written as an "occurrence basis" or "claims basis" policy the Sheriff purchased a "tail" policy to cover a "gap" in insurance. Bergman stated that he thought the loss of the insurance could have been avoided by the Sheriff's actions which he (Bergman) believes border on malfeasance and from his investigating the situation believes that the Sheriff displayed "deliberate indifference" which lead to the cancellation of the insurance and could now cost the county more. Sheriff Striker answered Bergman's accusations explaining that he had informed the Commissioners of every step of the process and documentation of the insurance cancellation and the search for a new company to cover his department's liability risk. Eppley asked how long this policy had been in force and Striker stated that he had "inherited the insurance that was in effect" and felt he had exhibited "due diligence" in protecting the county. He also requested an apology from Bergman. Following much discussion by the council and sheriff, Bergman said he could not support the appropriation request as is and repeated his motion to table. Little seconded the motion and stated that based on the amount of the increase for the insurance (\$73,493. for the current policy coverage up from \$60,257.85 last year plus the tail-end policy of \$29,292. for a three year period) and the research done by Bergman he felt more study needed to be done to try to sort through the conflicting information. Sheriff Striker stated he had been "out of the loop" and did not have one council member come to discuss this issue with him prior to the meeting. Nose stated that he understood the insurance company has done this to us and Commissioner Templin replied that it was not an unusual policy and that he had had to carry insurance for five years after closing a business. A vote was taken on the motion to table and study the issue with five councilmen voting aye and one (Fuller) voting nay "in support of the Commissioners" who had approved the initial payment of the insurance in order not to have a lapse in coverage. A three member committee was then formed of Council members Bergman and Little and Commissioner Hauptert to study the issue for future reference and to meet with Sheriff Striker.

For a request for five new election voting machines, Clerk of the Courts Lori Draper asked for \$15,901. to be paid from election funds. She stated that in the primary election they will be running on both old and new machines. Nose moved for approval of her request, seconded by Sites and approved on a 6-0 vote.

The request for the Sheriff's Pension Fund for process serving in February(\$5220) was approved on a motion by Bergman and second by Eppley and a 6-0 vote.

Superior Court requests for Personal Services appropriations of \$4438.12 for a court reporter and \$8239.12 for a court bailiff due to employee benefits and training of new staff were approved by a motion made by Nose and seconded by Little and a 6-0 vote of the council.

A request from the Health Department for Homeland Security (Health) purchase of a projector and screen for training purposes was approved following an explanation of the intended uses by Keith Walters, Local Public Health Coordinator. Bergman moved for approval, seconded by Eppley and a 6-0 vote of the council.

Another request for building repair and carpet for the nurses' office was approved from the Health Tobacco Settlement Fund following a motion to approve by Little and a second of his motion by Sites, confirmed with a 6-0 vote.

The above described actions were recorded as shown below by the Auditor.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS  
ORDINANCE 2006 NO. III

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
<b>COUNTY GENERAL</b>				
<b>Clerk of the Court</b>				
112 Personal Services - (7 Deputies)	\$5,558.00	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
113 Personal Services (Deputy/Bookkeeper)	794.00	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Auditor</b>				
112 Personal Services (Deputy/Bookkeeper)	794.00	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
113 Personal Services (4 Deputies)	3,176.00	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Treasurer</b>				
112 Personal Services (Deputy Treasurer)	794.00	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Recorder</b>				
112 Personal Services (Deputy Recorder)	794.00	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Sheriff</b>				
119 Personal Services (First Deputy/Secretary)	1,776.00	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
177 Personal Services (False Arrest Insurance)	22,782.91	<u>TABLED</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>County Assessor</b>				
112 Personal Services (Deputy Assessor)	794.00	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Noble Township Assessor</b>				
112 Personal Services (Deputy Assessor)	794.00	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Election Board</b>				
441 Capital Outlay (Equipment)	15,901.00	<u>15,901.00</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Planning Commission</b>				
112 Personal Services (Clerical/Secretary)	1,816.49	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>County Commissioners</b>				
174 Personal Services (Sheriff's Pension Fund)-Feb	5,220.00	<u>5,220.00</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Jail</b>				
119 Personal Services (Records Clerk)	1,776.00	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Superior Court</b>				
113 Personal Services (Court Reporter)	4,438.12	<u>4,438.12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
114 Personal Services (Bailiff/Administrator)	8,239.12	<u>8,239.12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Probation</b>				
112 Personal Services (Secretary)	794.00	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
113 Personal Services (Office Manager)	794.00	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS</b>				
112 Personal Services (Administrative Assistant)	2,695.16	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>CUMULATIVE REAPPRAISAL</b>				
112 Personal Services (Deputy Assessor)	794.00	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>HOMELAND SECURITY</b>				
112 Capital Outlay (Equipment)	1,645.00	<u>1,645.00</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>HEALTH TOBACCO SETTLEMENT</b>				
361 Other Services & Charges (Building Repair)	400.00	<u>400.00</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
361 Other Services & Charges (Building Repair)	806.00	<u>806.00</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>



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

114 Personal Services – Court Bailiff \$ 506.37 506.37 4 2

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 27th day of March, 2006, by the following aye and nay vote:  
The Auditor was directed to present to above emergency transfers to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as by law provided.

Bergman moved to approve Resolution #5. His motion was seconded by Sites and passed by a 4 aye, 2 nay vote (Fuller and Little).

TRANSFER RESOLUTION  
NO. 2006 # 6

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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INCREASE:

ENHANCED COMMUNITY ENFORCEMENT GRANT

Fund 099 Overtime worked for 2006 AACTION Grant \$ 354.10 354.10 6 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:

DECREASE:

COUNTY GENERAL  
Sheriff

120 Personal Services – Overtime \$ 354.10 354.10 6 0

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 27th day of March, 2006, by the following aye and nay vote:  
The Auditor was directed to present to above emergency transfers to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as by law provided.

Transfer Resolution #6 was passed by a 6-0 vote following a motion by Bergman and second by Eppley.

The County Council then reviewed an approved a resolution to authorize a loan of Local Road and Street Revenue to the County General Fund for up to \$1,000,000. as needed for cash flow between tax collection settlements. The following resolution was approved on a motion by Eppley and seconded by Little with a 6-0 vote of the council.

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION 2006- I

A Resolution Authorizing a Loan of Local Road and Street Revenue  
to the County General Fund

WHEREAS, the Wabash County Council has determined under authority of Indiana Code: 36-1-8-4, that it would be in the best interest of Wabash County to authorize a loan of Local Road and Street funds to the County General Fund due to an inadequate operating balance. Council has determined an emergency situation exists as timely payment of employee benefits and vendor claims is at risk;

NOW, THEREFORE, as there are sufficient funds on deposit in the Local Road and Street account for current needs, this Council does hereby sanction a temporary loan not to exceed the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.) from the Local Road and Street Fund to the County General Fund. Said appropriation is to be used for operating expenses of Wabash County. Per Indiana Code: 36-1-8-4, the Local Road and Street Fund must be reimbursed in the total amount of loan made on or before December 31, 2006.

Passed by the Wabash County Council this 27th day of March, 2006.

Highway Supervisor Larry Rice presented the council more information from the LOHUT meeting and reminded the council that Wabash County is not expecting as much income for the highway department from State Funding as in the past few years.

The Council then signed an Amended Salaries and Wage Ordinance for County Employees for the year 2006 as advertised last month and approved for the Prosecutor's office last month and today reflecting changes in the staffing and restructure of duties following the move to the new office and the Prosecutor electing to go full-time.

**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:

Position	Name	Longevity	Rate of Bi-Weekly Salary	Total Annual Salary
<b>COUNTY GENERAL - Prosecuting Attorney</b>				
111 Prosecutor Full Time	W. Hartley		\$ 192.31	\$ 5,000.00
112 Chief Deputy Pros. PT	K. Lynn		185.65	4,827.00
113 Deputy Prosecutor PT	A. Plummer		1,597.77	41,542.00
114 Investigator's Salary FT	T. Weaver	\$ 884.40	907.12	23,585.00
114 Investigator's Salary Addl.	T. Weaver			667.93
115 Secretary-Prosecutor FT	T. Burnsworth eff. 2/20/06		444.60	10,005.00
116 Secretary-Prosecutor PT	T. Burnsworth (to 2/20/06)		168.91	590.84
116 Secretary-Prosecutor PT/FT	T. Burnsworth from 2/20			4,302.95
116 Secretary-Prosecutor Addl.	T. Burnsworth			667.93
116 Deputy Pros, Secretary	V. Williams	Addl Pay		2,412.93
117 Victim Asst. – Sup.Ct.	T. Burnsworth			2,785.41
117 Victim Asst.	T. Burnsworth	Addl Pay		2,412.93
117 Victim Asst.	T. Weaver	Addl Pay		2,412.93

<b>COUNTY GENERAL - Prosecuting Attorney IV-D</b>				
111 Child Support Officer	A. Plummer		\$ 752.38	\$ 19,562.00
112 Investigator FT	K. Cole	\$ 884.00	907.12	23,585.00
113 Investigator FT	D. Tiffany	\$ 471.68	907.12	23,585.00
114 Secretary-Prosecutor PT	T. Burnsworth		275.92	7,174.00
115 Child Support Investigator	G. Ball Hired 1-23-05		907.12	23,585.00

<b>USER FEE FUND - Pre-Trial Diversion</b>				
116 Deputy Pros. Secretary	V. Williams	\$ 566.83	\$ 792.77	\$ 20,612.00
116 Deputy Pros. Secretary Addl.	V. Williams			667.93

Dated this 27th day of March, 2006

Financial Reports for the periods ending February 28, 2006 and March 24, 2006 were reviewed, and Eppley reminded council members District meeting of the AIC on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

No other business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bergman, seconded by Little and a 6-0 vote. The next meeting will be April 24, 2006. The council will meet on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse at 8:00 A.M.

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T.F. "Bob" Fuller, Chairman

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Paul M. Bergman

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Dean Eppley

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Paul D. Sites

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Ted A. Little

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Gary S. Nose

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Leon Ridenour

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jane E. Ridgeway, Auditor