

MAY 22, 2006

The Wabash County Council met in regular session on May 22, 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 all Council members present.

Prayer was offered by Leon Ridenour. The minutes of the April 24th meeting were reviewed. Eppley moved to approve the minutes as written. His motion was seconded by Ridenour and approved by a 6-0 vote.

The first order of business was to welcome Claude Markstahler as a newly appointed council member replacing Paul Sites from the first district. Markstahler was appointed by the Republican Precinct Committeemen of his district (Chester 1-6 and Lagro 3) and he was sworn in prior to the meeting by Clerk of the Courts* Lori Draper.

The first order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation Ordinance Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2006-V as advertised and recorded below:

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2006 No. V

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
COUNTY GENERAL				
Plan Commission				
Personal Services – (Director)	\$ 1,128.66	\$ 1,128.66	7	0

Mike Howard took over as Plan Director of the Wabash County Plan Commission on January 1, 2006. Mr. Howard should be making the same salary as the previous Director, after 180 days of service. (Wabash County Personnel Policy Book: Page 15:205) The Plan Commission Board is asking Council for an additional appropriation to make Mr. Howard’s salary \$29,128.58 for 2006.

Ted Little, representing the Plan Commission, explained that this salary increase request was based on the 2005 Director salary of \$30,257. plus a 2% increase as given to all county employees for 2006. He stated that Mike has done a fantastic job by updating the ordinances, documenting policy etc. and definitely is deserving of the increase in his salary. *Little moved for approval, seconded by Eppley and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

	Sheriff			
Supplies – (Garage & Motors)	\$ 661.43	\$ 661.43	7	0

A reimbursement check was received for warranty recall repair performed and paid for from Garage & Motors Account Line # 02-25. This request is that this money be placed back into the Garage & Motors budget appropriation line item for future use.

Following discussion, Nose moved to approve this appropriation, seconded by Little and approved by the council by a 7-0 vote.

County Commissioners

**Personal Services - (Sheriff's Pension Fund
- March & April)**

\$ 10,284.00 \$10,284.00 7 0

This request is for the Sheriff's Pension Fund based on claims for process serving for Superior and Circuit Courts in March (\$5928.00) and April (\$4356.00),

Fuller explained this additional appropriation helps to fund the county's share of the annual expense of funding the Sheriff's Pension Fund as they are separate from the employees covered by PERF. Fuller also noted that the Process Service Fees will increase as of July 1. Following discussion this additional appropriation was approved on a motion by Ridenour and seconded by Eppley and a 7-0 vote.

Probation

Capital Outlay - (Vehicles)

\$20,000.00 \$17,606.25 6 1

Dallas L. Duggan, Chief Probation Officer, on behalf of the Wabash County Probation Department, with a communication from the Wabash County Commissioners, would respectfully request that the Wabash County Council grant this request of transferring \$20,000.00 from the Electronic Home Detention Fund to the County General Fund – Probation Department 37-01-04-41 or another account if more appropriate to allow the Wabash County Probation Department to purchase a new vehicle. The current probation department vehicle has begun to experience significant mechanical problems which have resulted in over \$800.00 in repairs in 2006. Significant more repairs will be needed if the vehicle is not replaced.

Chief Probation Officer Dallas Duggan explained to the council that the 1992 van has over 100,000 miles on it and the department averages over 20,000 plus miles a year on the vehicle. Duggan also noted that the van is not to be paid out of county funds as the Electronic Home Detention funds collected by the Probation department prior to the creation of Community Corrections which now administers the electronic home detention funds. This older fee fund has a current balance of \$111,253.17. Bergman asked if this use of the fund had been confirmed with the state. Following discussion of the fund and the extent of the problems and repairs needed on the current van, Little moved to table the request until the next meeting but then changed his motion to approve with a covenant that the auditor verifies with the state that this fund can be used for this purchase. His motion was seconded by Eppley and amended for the cost of the recommended new vehicle of \$17,606.25. Following discussion the Transfer of the funds from the Electronic Home Detention Fund to the County General Fund and the appropriation from the Probation Department Capital Outlay-Vehicle account were approved by the council (with the approval from the state to the Auditor) were approved by the council on a 6 aye and 1 nay (Nose) vote.

CUMULATIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Capital Outlay - (Building Repairs- Old State Highway Building) \$ 20,370.00 \$ 20,370.00 7 0

To cover the cost of remodeling needed at the former old state highway building located at the county highway department. This will fund removing chimneys (\$5500.), electrical work needed (\$8610.) and window replacement (\$6260.)

Commissioner Hauptert explained that this is for improvements for the old State Highway building to be used by the Highway and EMA. The highway will use the front end for storage. Highway Superintendent Larry Rice stated that the building was 122'x 52'. This building was formerly leased to Manchester Recycling. The Commissioners approved the lowest quotes received. Little questioned why at the last council meeting when they approved an additional appropriation for a new roof and overhead doors for the building, this additional costs of remodeling or renovating this building were not presented. Highway Superintendent Rice state that all of the quotes had not been received prior to the deadline for the last meeting. Little noted that with the appropriation approved last month of \$31,000. and this request of \$20,370. this would bring the total of repairs to \$51,370. He felt the county probably could have built a new pole building for approximately \$75,000. Nose asked why the chimney was already down and Rice informed him that they could not start the roof until it was down. Also asked why some quotes were lower and not accepted by the Commissioners, Hauptert and Rice commented that the lower costs quotes were not up to the complete quote requests. Rice also noted that \$500. for disposing of the bricks from the old chimney would be paid from the Highway fund as it was not included in his original request. It was also explained that the highway department would be able to use part of the building as also the EMA would be using part of the building for storage. Following this discussion, Ridenour moved to approve this additional appropriation. The motion was seconded by Bergman and passed on a 7-0 vote.

Capital Outlay - (Courthouse Second Floor Renovation) \$ 29,000.00 \$ 29,000.00 7 0

To cover the cost to finish remodeling needed on the second floor of the Courthouse This includes the Extension office move, Electrical and cabling work needed for new IT room etc.

The Commissioners explained that additional projects were added as the remodeling of the second floor of the Courthouse was being done to move the Surveyor's Office and the move and expansion of the EMA department necessitated additional costs to move the Extension Office and as well as the upgrading the computer systems by adding a new IT room on the second floor of the Courthouse. Following discussion, Bergman moved to approve the appropriation and Eppley seconded the motion. It passed on a 7-0 vote of the council.

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

The Council then addressed the following Transfer Resolution 2006 #10:

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. 2006 # 10**

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
INCREASE:				
	COUNTY GENERAL – SHERIFF			
0001-0005-03-431-010 Other Services & Charges				
Legal Services	\$ 387.00	\$ 387.00	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:

DECREASE:	COUNTY GENERAL - JAIL			
0001-0033-01-413-077 Personal Services				
False Arrest Insurance	\$ 387.00	\$ 387.00	7	0

Requested for a shortage in the Sheriff's Legal Services line item due to Ruth Moser law suit.

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 22nd day of May, 2006, by the recorded 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.

Sheriff Striker explained that this transfer request is for legal fees over and above the appropriated amounts for a lawsuit prior to his term. He stated that the case is now finished and the judge determined that no repayment from the county was necessary however the county had to pay a \$10,000 deductible for the liability insurance claim. Following the Sheriff's explanation, Markstahler moved to approve the request, seconded by Eppley and approved by a 7-0 vote.

Clerk of the Courts Lori Draper addressed the council to inform them of legislative changes affecting her office, including Passport fees, decreasing Child Support fees and Incentive money as well as for the Prosecutor's Incentive funds. She reported that the Election was very difficult with two sets of voting machines to set up and monitor as well as all the new state mandates, etc. Draper stated she would be requesting approximately \$80,000. - \$81,000. for replacement of all the older machines. There will be enough to cover the 2007 City Election but by the 2008 Presidential Election she would definitely

like to have all new voting machines. She has some of the needed funds available in her Clerk's Incentive Funds that could be used.

The April 30, 2006 Financial Report was reviewed. The Auditor noted that the General Fund balance reflects a \$500,000. Temporary loan from the Local Road and Street Fund as authorized in Resolution 2006-1 approved on March 27, 2006.

Council reviewed the Otis Bowen Center budget request for 2007 and discussed the possibility of a County Option Dog Tax. The Council decided to hold a special session on June 13, 2006 at 1:00 P.M. to discuss a County Option Dog Tax, budget considerations and an Executive Session following to discuss possible Personnel Policy changes and Employee Job Descriptions. They have invited Whitley County officials to explain the Performance based Merit pay raises that their county switched to a few years ago.

Council members Markstahler, Eppley and Nose will be attending the upcoming AIC sponsored called State Board of Accounts meeting in Columbus, Indiana on June 10th.

No other business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bergman, seconded by Little and a 7-0 vote. The next meeting will be the Special Session on June 13, 2006 at 1:00P.M. with an Executive Session following to discuss personnel matters. The next regular meeting will be June 25, 2006. The council will meet on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse at 8:00 A.M.

* Corrected minutes by motion on June 26.