

JUNE 13, 2006
SPECIAL SESSION

The Wabash County Council met in special session on June 13, 2006 at 1:00 P, .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 (Paul Bergman was absent). Prayer was offered by Leon Ridenour.

All department heads were invited to hear the special guest speakers. Ted Little introduced the Whitley County Officials who were invited to speak about the Merit Pay Scales they have adapted in the past few years: Paula Reimers, Whitley County Coordinator, Scott Darley, Whitley County Councilman, and Linda Gerig, Whitley County Auditor.

Ms. Reimers described her position which is 30% Commissioners and Council Secretary, 30% IT Technical support and 40% Human Resources position. Her position was established five or six years ago. She outlined her duties and responsibilities and how she interacts with the Auditors office responsibilities. Reimers also discussed how Whitley County updated their Employee job descriptions, how they process evaluations and also updated Personnel Policy Manuals.

She and the Elected Officials discussed the Merit Pay Scale job classifications as well as the Performance based raises and Longevity policies used in their county. They answered questions from the council and department heads and also discussed many aspects of how this program was initiated, what it costs and how it operates as well as how it was/is accepted in Whitley County.

Council members thanked the officials from Whitley County for coming and sharing their ideas and programs with the Wabash Council.

Next the Council discussed the possibility if a County Option Dog Tax. Based on information provided by the Auditor from the Auditor's conference and discussions and presentations from the AIC Council Conference, they discussed the pros and cons of establishing a County Option Dog Tax at this time. Following discussion, Ridenour moved to "forget establishing such a tax for now". His motion was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 6-0 vote of the councilmen present.

In other business, the County accepted the resignation of Phil Mendenhall as their long-time appointment to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission. They expressed their appreciation for his many years of service on the commission. They discussed the qualifications for this appointment and will consider possible interested persons at their June 24th meeting. Mendenhall's resignation for health reasons was accepted on a motion by Nose and seconded by Markstahler. It was approved by a 6-0 vote.

The Auditor presented the Council an emailed opinion from the State Board of Accounts that the old Electronic Home Detention Fees could be transferred to the Probation Department. She further reported that based on the email and the fact an emergency situation existed last Friday (June 9th) when the old probation van quit running; she and Chief Probation Officer Dallas Duggan contacted Chairman of the Council Bob Fuller by phone for his permission to proceed with the purchase of a new vehicle from the conditionally approved transfer and additional appropriation request (May 22, 2006). Fuller concurred and approved the request.

The regular meeting was adjourned and the Council met in an advertised Executive Session following to discuss Personnel issues. 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.

JUNE 13, 2006
EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session followed the special session of the Council to discuss Personnel matters with Chief Probation Officer Dallas Duggan and Auditor Jane Ridgeway. There were five Council members present for the Executive Session. Ridenour and Bergman were not present.

Following discussion, with no other business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Nose, seconded by Little and a 5-0 vote.