

**MAY 24, 2010**

Wabash County Council met in regular session on Monday, May 24, 2010 at the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Mike Ridenour offered prayer. Claude Markstahler led the pledge of allegiance. Chairman Ridenour called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. with all members present: Ridenour, Jim Kaltenmark, Gary Nose, Ted Little, Daryl Evans, Randy Curless and Markstahler. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway.

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the April 26, 2010 meeting. Ridenour requested a change to the minutes; page 2 paragraph 2 "property" tax should be "income" tax. Evans made a motion to approve the minutes with correction as noted; his motion was seconded by Nose and passed by a 7-0 vote.

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

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS  
ORDINANCE 2010 NO VI**

**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 FUND 0001**

**Jail 0033**

**0001-0033-03-432-033 Other Services & Charges  
- Inmate Transfers**

	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	7	0
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**This is the initial request for the transfer of inmates to Miami County.**

Sheriff Striker stated a contract does not currently exist but once approval is given by the Council, an additional appropriation is approved and a fund is set up, the Miami County Sheriff will begin the contract process. The requested \$25,000 will cover fifteen (15) inmates at \$35 per day for a total of forty-five (45) days. This will allow a one (1) month trial period to see how the process works. Striker stated the inmate population at the jail was 103 inmates this morning and eleven (11) others were bonded out or released on their own recognizance. The goal is to look for alternatives to building a new jail and to keep numbers down at our current facility. Little asked if there was a cap number that would automatically require inmates to be moved to the Miami County facility. Striker stated no. Transfers will depend on the number of inmates and several variables: the type of inmate male or female

needs level of the inmate and the severity of their crime. Each of these will be a part of the selection process. The main objective is not to send any inmates but, when the need does arise, we will have to discern the best plan of action and decide which inmates would best be suited for the transfer. Evans asked how the \$35 per inmate was decided and if there is an escalation clause. Striker stated the Department of Correction (DOC) set this amount over twenty (20) years ago and it has remained at the set amount with no increase for inflation. Striker stated Miami County sees this as a fair amount. Ridenour stated he had spoken with a few Miami County Councilmen who stated the LOIT Public Safety tax came in low in their county and this transfer plan will help Miami County as well. Little asked how the liability and medical costs are handled. Striker stated we pay medical costs but Miami County covers liability costs. Little made a motion to approve the \$25,000 for inmate transfers; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed by a 7-0 vote. Striker stated he will work with Steve Downs on the best way to transfer inmates.

**CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND 0003**

**0003-0000-04-447-080 Capital Outlay**

<b>- Lagro #14 Drainage Structure</b>	<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
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Lagro #14 Drainage Structure is an old concrete box on CR 400 N just east of CR 500 E. The water has cut under the floor of this box and washed away the downstream end approximately 18-20 inches. It is recommended to replace the box and repair the downstream side with gabion baskets.

Highway Superintendent Phil Amones stated they are replacing one or two culverts per year. Ridgeway stated the balance of Cum Bridge Fund is approximately \$2.2 million as of today. Little made a motion to approve \$50,000 for the Largo #14 culvert replacement; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed by a 7-0 vote.

**0003-0000-04-447-081 Capital Outlay**

<b>- Lagro #115 Drainage Structure</b>	<b>\$ 32,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,000.00</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
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Lagro #115 Drainage Structure is an old concrete box locate on CR 750 E just south of Division Road. The existing structure has deteriorated to the point that replacement is needed. The water has washed away the soil under the floor and now runs under the culvert instead of through it.

Amones stated this amount is for a complete replacement and installation. Curless made a motion to approve \$32,000 for the Largo #115 culvert replacement; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed 7-0.

**0003-0000-04-447-082 Capital Outlay**

<b>- Waltz #4 Drainage Structure</b>	<b>\$ 75,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 75,000.00</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
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This Structure is located on CR 700 S, west of CR 400 W. It is an old concrete box with a concrete drop or weir on the south side. There is a 36" tile plus surface water that comes into this structure. There is excessive deterioration of existing concrete at the side walls where it meets the floor.

Amones stated the current structure holds up to 20 tons which is classified as an SH20. The new culverts are considered SH22 which is equal to or better than the existing structure. Amones stated the removal, pick-up and replacement will be completed by a contracted excavator. The assembly of the culvert will be done on site by the culvert supplier. The total process will close the road for approximately two (2) days. Curless made a motion to approve \$75,000 for the Waltz #4 culvert replacement; his motion was seconded by Evans and passed by a 7-0 vote.

**LOCAL ROAD & STREET FUND 0011**

**0011-0000-03-439-071 Other Services & Charges**

<b>- Engineering - CR 250S Project</b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
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The engineering for the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) and Project on CR 250 S (Dora Road) is 100% reimbursable from ARRA Funds, but we must have the account line to pay for items and then they are reimbursed by the State.

Amones stated the project includes milling and resurfacing the road an inch and a half, placing stone along the edges and attempting to address a water drainage problem as well. Amones stated the total cost of the project is approximately \$385,000 and covers 4.9 miles; from Wabash City limits to America Road. Little made a motion to approve request for \$15,000 for the reimbursable ARRA engineering portion of the CR 250 S project; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 7-0 vote.

**WABASH COUNTY POLICE PENSION FUND 0022**

**0022-0000-04-413-074 Personal Services – Sheriff’s Pension**

<b>- Clerk Civil Process Collections April, 2010</b>	<b>\$ 1,846.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,846.00</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
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**0022-0000-04-413-074 Personal Services – Sheriff’s Pension**

<b>- Sheriff Civil Process Collections April, 2010</b>	<b>\$ 159.00</b>	<b>\$ 159.00</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
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This request is for Civil Process Collections for the month of April 2010.

Nose made a motion to approve the Police Pension Fund Appropriation totaling \$2,005; his motion was seconded by Evans and passed by a 7-0 vote. Ridenour stated in reference to last month’s meeting, the Council requests that the Merit Board create a more agreeable plan for the county. The idea of placing an amount that is 24% of each new employee’s salary into the pension fund for retirement is an excess amount. Ridenour also requested they look at the money differences that occurred when the retirement age was reduced from 55 to 50. Ridenour requested Striker present information regarding these issues at the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Striker requested Ridenour provide him with specifics to present to the Merit Board. Ridenour agreed.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010 by the above aye and nay vote.

The next order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation request tabled March 22, 2010: Personal Services – Sheriff’s Pension Fund – 2010 totaling \$60,000. Auditor Ridgeway stated the County Attorney Steve Downs confirmed the Rainy Day Fund could be used to cover the Sheriff’s Pension. This would be a temporary fix to help catch up. Nose asked why Sheriff Sale Fees are not appropriated. Striker stated the way the line item is set up now the State Board of Account allows the fees to go directly into the 0022 Pension Fund. Striker stated McCready and Keene, Inc. does have a note on their report that shows how much revenue has come in quarterly from Sheriff Sales. Ridgeway stated the funds are held in the Wabash County 0022 Pension Fund until an invoice is requested. At that time the amount requested is appropriated to the trustee of the pension fund. No action was taken at this time.

The next order of business was to address Transfer Requests:

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION  
NO. 2010-08**

**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, 2010 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>ADULT PROBATION USER FEE – 0060</b>				
<b>0060-0000-01-412-019 Wages -Clerical/Hourly</b>	<b>\$6,510.00</b>	<b>\$6,510.00</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

**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:**

**INCREASE:**

**ADULT PROBATION USER FEE - 0060**

<b>0060-0000-01-412-014 Wages –PT Field Officer</b>	<b>\$6,200.00</b>	<b>\$6,200.00</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>0060-0000-01-413-071 Social Security</b>	<b>\$ 310.00</b>	<b>\$ 310.00</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

This Officer is requesting that this Council grant this Officer's request to transfer \$6,200.00 from 0060-0000-01-412-019 to 0060-0000-01-412-014. This request is made in order to allow the Wabash County Probation Department to hire a Field Officer to work 32 hours per week at a \$15.00 per hour rate of pay for the balance of the year to essentially work as a Probation Officer. Due to the current financial state of the County, the County Commissioners asked this Officer to find a temporary solution for the balance of the 2010 year as a full-time probation officer, Brian P. Swihart, resigned his position in April 2010. The Commissioners were apprised and agreed that this funding of a position, through probation user fees for a part-time employee was a "temporary fix" and that a full-time probation officer, to replace Brian Swihart, would be requested in the 2011 budget and would received their support.

Furthermore, this Officer is requesting that \$310.00 is transferred from the same account into 0060-0000-01-413-071 for social security.

Evans made a motion to approve the transfer request totaling \$6,510 from Adult Probation User Fees – Wages to Adult Probation User Fees - Part Time Field Officer and Social Security; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by 7-0 vote.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010, by the above aye and nay vote:

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- **Highway Superintendent Phil Amones and John Haberman of LTAP (Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program) presented numbers to substantiate LOHUT (Local Option Highway User Fees).** LOHUT could be a tax from 2% to 10% but no less than \$7.50 per licensed vehicle through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles; set fees would be decided by Council. Haberman stated that forty-seven (47) Indiana counties have implemented LOHUT. Amones stated both the Local Road and Street Fund and the Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH) funds have declined over the last ten (10) years due to budget cuts by the State and higher expenses all around. Amones stated he has cut the highway department budget by reducing mowing, cutting back an operator/driver, sold one truck, shifting funds from projects not implemented, putting off requests to create two (2) gravel roads and reduced the chip and seal from 125 miles per year to 50 miles per year. Amones stated this has helped but the budget cuts are going to continue. Amones stated there are 714 miles of roads that are on a five (5) year cycle of chip and seal. This keeps the roads in excellent shape. But with the cut backs, the roads are going to start to show deterioration quickly and our normal standard of quality will not be sustained. Amones stated the county has \$36,000,000 worth of assets and if they are not maintained the cost to get back up to standards will be unattainable. Little stated it makes sense that the less you spend the less roads will be maintained. Nose and Little acknowledged that there is a

definite decline in the revenues of the highway department budget, but the loss is not enough currently to justify LOHUT. Evans stated adding LOHUT at this time would be premature. Ridenour stated he does not see this as a critical issue right now. Wabash County resident's budgets have declined and adding another tax would not be prudent. Curless stated he is in agreement with Amones that our roads are going to suffer greatly. Curless stated this will need to be revisited next year. County residents: Mark Sellers, Paul Lewis and Gareth Rodman addressed the Council with their concerns regarding adopting LOHUT.

**COUNCIL REVIEWED:**

- **March, 2010 Auditor and Treasurer Financial Reports**
- **2010 Appointment to Wabash Carnegie Library Board - Charlie Miller**  
Kaltenmark made a motion to appoint Charlie Miller to the Wabash Carnegie Library Board. Miller will replace Pete Jones who has asked not to be reappointed; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 7-0 vote.
- **North Manchester Public Library Board - Lisa Ulrey.** Ulrey's term ends June 26<sup>th</sup>. Little made a motion to re-appoint Lisa Ulrey to the North Manchester Public Library Board; his motion was seconded by Evans and passed by a 7-0 vote.
- **Allocation Changes to Local Option Income Tax – New Adoption deadline is November 1, 2010**
- **Notice of ICCA Annual Conference – Saturday, June 26, 2010**

Little made a motion to adjourn the meeting; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed with a 7-0 vote.

**The following individuals attended the May 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting:**

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

Sheila Rhoades  
Paul Lewis  
Bonnie Corn  
Gareth Rodman  
Mark Sellers  
Rebecca Kubacki  
Larry Dockter

\*Approved as written – June 28, 2010