

**JULY 26, 2010**

Wabash County Council met in regular session on Monday, July 26, 2010 at the Wabash County Courthouse. James Kaltenmark offered prayer. Claude Markstahler led the pledge of allegiance. Chairman Mike Ridenour called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. with all members present: Ridenour, 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 June 28, 2010 meeting. Curless made a motion to approve the minutes as written; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed 7-0.

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

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS  
ORDINANCE 2010 NO VII**

**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:**

	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Appropriated</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
<b><u>COUNTY GENERAL FUND 0001</u></b>				
<b><u>Central Dispatch 0038</u></b>				
<b>0001-0038-01-412-017 Personal Services</b>				
<b>- Salaries - Dispatchers</b>	<b>\$ 85,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 85,000.00</b>		<b>Withdrawn</b>

This request is for monies transferred from the E911 Landline Professional Services line item to pay Wabash City dispatchers who have transferred to Wabash County Central Dispatch. This amount would have been paid directly to the City of Wabash for dispatcher salary offsets if central dispatch had not been formed.

Bob Brown, Central Dispatch Director, stated that this had been done on April 13<sup>th</sup> of this year and does not need to be appropriated.

<b>0001-0038-01-412-023 Personal Services</b>				
<b>- Part-time/Hourly-Dispatchers</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

Transfer amount from the E911 Landline Professional Services line item to pay part-time dispatchers for remainder of 2010. In June there was only one part-time dispatcher trained. We are in the process of training four (4) additional part-time dispatchers to a part-time status. The reason there are five (5) total part-time dispatcher is that one dispatcher from the city did not transfer and remained as the IDACS Coordinator. It is important to have personnel that can report for duty on short notice in case of illness or personal emergency of a full-time dispatcher. The part-time personnel do not earn vacation, retirement benefits or sick leave. Markstahler made a motion to approve; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 7-0 vote.

**WABASH COUNTY POLICE PENSION FUND 0022**

**0022-0000-01-413-074 Personal Services – Sheriff’s Pension**  
**– Clerk Civil Process Collections - June, 2010     \$ 1,144.00             \$ 1,144.00             7             0**  
 This is for the June Civil Process fees collected.

Markstahler made a motion to approve request; his motion was seconded by Little and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Ridenour then discussed the tabled Order of the Wabash County Council which requires Sheriff Striker, on or before July 10, 2010, to either resign as Sheriff or as a full-time teacher at Heartland Career Center. Council amended the date on the order from July 10, 2010 to August 6<sup>th</sup>. Evans made a motion to approve the amendment; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 7-0 vote. Little stated he spoke with Gary Sweet, Director of Heartland Career Center, and the courses are set up as full-time only. Also, with Striker’s credentials they are providing college credits for a few students. This does not allow Striker to work on a part-time basis. Evans stated Striker could work pro-bono until January of 2011. Little stated he contacted Indiana Wesleyan University and Otis Archey, Grant County Sheriff, never taught there while serving his term, as Striker stated. Little also contacted the state and there was no known record of any Sheriff with (2) two full-time jobs.

Major Chief Deputy Steve Hicks stated the Merit Board passed an amendment to the Sheriff’s Pension Plan during an emergency meeting by a vote of 3-2 to go back to the terms of the old pension plan with retirement age reset at 55 and no COLA for new hires after August 1, 2010. Hicks stated he presented this to the Commissioners this morning and Commissioners are waiting on the Council’s decision before allowing the department to move forward on hiring deputies. Commissioners stated they would consider approving hiring one (1) deputy now and leave one (1) position for the new Sheriff to fill. Ridenour stated he wanted to discuss this and move forward as a Council. Evans asked why this should not be decided by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brian Hauptert stated they are waiting on the Council to make a decision on the pension plan before they move forward. Little stated if we change it back to 55 it will take years maybe 10 or 20 years before it will make any visible financial savings. This is due to the fact that all current employees are changed to 50 and stay at 50. Nose stated this may be true but, it must be changed due to insufficient or possibly false information. Hicks stated McCready and Keene were unable to have the paperwork completed for this meeting so he had no written amendment to present to Council. Ridenour stated he would like the Council, Commissioners, Merit Board and Sheriff to meet together to discuss a retroactive proposal.

Hicks stated the Sheriff's Department needs coverage for our deputies out in the field: "We have fifteen (15) officers. Our peak hours are 2 P.M. to 6 P.M. and again at 9 P.M. to 1 A.M. We have overlapping shifts that allow extra back-up but if we are down officers we have fewer back-ups; instead of just a two (2) hour overlap we are at a four (4) hour no back up time span. There is a great working relationship with the City of Wabash Police when they have extra time, they do assist". Markstahler asked if Commissioners are comfortable with moving forward no matter how this affects the pension plan. Commissioner Scott Givens stated the pension being retroactive is going to be difficult to address, but it is not worth it to hold this up when we need an officer on the force. Hicks stated we are in need of road officers now. Evans made a motion to approve the amendment presented; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark. Before a vote was called for, Little stated he will not vote for anything until the paperwork is in front of him. Following discussion, no vote was taken. Kristina Lynn, President of the Wabash County Merit Board, stated she voted against this amendment due to the fact that she did not want to make a hasty decision without facts and figures in front of her. Lynn also stated when this amendment was passed the Merit Board was under the impression that both deputy positions would be filled and she felt the majority of the Merit Board may not have voted yes had they known that there would only be one deputy hired. Givens stated Sheriff Striker was told at the Commissioners meeting that he would be allowed to hire one officer only. Lynn stated she is also concerned about the council making the pension retroactive. She said when the plan changes were made in 2008; the Merit Board also felt the pension plan expense was covered because they thought they were receiving monies for every civil service process when in actuality the county was only receiving fees once for each case not each civil process served. The claims and collections have been tracked back to 2006 showing the shortfall for each year. Nose made a motion to table the vote until more information is obtained; his motion was seconded by Evans and passed by a 7-0 vote. Evans asked if the Merit Board is aware of the county's financial concern. Interim Lagro Township Trustee Flo Dahlstrom expressed concerns over the Sheriff and positions available. Council set a special meeting of Council, Commissioners, Merit Board and Sheriff on August 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 P.M. to discuss the pension plan amendments. Hicks stated he will contact McCready and Keene and get more information to Council.

The Council then continued to address the remaining Additional Appropriation requests:

**RAINY DAY FUND 0148**

<b>0148-0000-01-412-013 Personal Services – Accrued Unused Employee Benefits</b>				
– Phil Amones	\$ 1,373.95	\$ 1,373.95	7	0

Amount of reduced salary (15% of previous Superintendent’s salary) withheld when Phil Amones was appointed Highway Superintendent 6-10-07 for probationary period.

Hauptert stated the Rainy Day Fund has a balance of approximately \$1,266,000. Markstahler made a motion to approve request; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by 7-0 vote.

**EMA - HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUND**

<b>0137-2010-03-431-065 Other Services &amp; Charges</b>				
– Training Exercises	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	7	0

This is a reimbursement training and exercise grant for Homeland Security District 3 and the District 3 Task Force. Fund for training and exercise will be disbursed over the next nine (9) months to pay for training for the District 3 Task Force. The exercise part of the grant will take place in May 2011. This grant is from federal fiscal year 2009. Wabash County will receive up to 3% for documented costs associated with the administration of this grant.

Curless made a motion to approve the request as submitted; his motion was seconded by Little and passed by a 7-0 vote.

This Additional Appropriation Ordinance was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2010 by the above aye and nay vote.

The next order of business was to address Transfer Requests:

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION  
NO. 2010-10**

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, 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>DECREASE:</b>				
	<b>E-911 LANDLINE</b>			
0054-0000-03-431-000 Professional Services	\$85,000.00	\$85,000.00	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:

<b>INCREASE:</b>				
	Amount Requested	Amount Appropriated	AYE	NAY
	<b>COUNTY GENERAL FUND - CENTRAL DISPATCH</b>			
0001-0038-01-412-017 CD Dispatcher	\$85,000.00	\$85,000.00	7	0

Transfer funds from the E-911 Landline-Professional Services to General Fund (Central Dispatch-Dispatcher Salaries) to pay the wages of the new dispatchers transferring from the City of Wabash for the remainder of 2010. City of Wabash is to pay a total of \$31,365.84 if transfer occurs on the projected July 2010 start-up date (amount will be adjusted to actual start-up date).

Evans made a motion to approve the transfer request; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed by a 7-0 vote.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 26th day of July, 2010, by the above aye and nay vote.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION**

**NO. 2010-11**

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>DECREASE:</b>				
<b>E-911 LANDLINE</b>				
0054-0000-03-431-000 Professional Services	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	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:

**INCREASE:**

	Amount Requested	Amount Appropriated	AYE	NAY
<b>COUNTY GENERAL FUND - CENTRAL DISPATCH</b>				
0001-0038-01-412-023 CD PT Dispatcher	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	7	0

This request is for transfer of monies for wages for part-time dispatcher. As there are several new part-time dispatchers, the current amount in the fund may fall short of the required funding for this time.

Little made a motion to approve the transfer request; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 7-0 vote.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 26th day of July, 2010, by the above aye and nay vote.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION**

**NO. 2010-12**

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>DECREASE:</b>				
<b>COUNTY GENERAL - TREASURER</b>				
0001-0003-02-421-012 Tax Statements	\$300.00	\$300.00	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:**

<b>INCREASE:</b>				
<b>COUNTY GENERAL FUND - TREASURER</b>				
0001-0003-03-431-065 Leases/Svc. Contracts	\$300.00	\$300.00	7	0

Treasurer’s copy machine needs to be replaced. Treasurer Sharon Shaw has decided to lease a new copier from the Perry Corporation for \$34.10 per month (five years).

Little made a motion to approve the transfer request; his motion was seconded by Nose and passed by a 7-0 vote.

**This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 26th day of July, 2010, by the above aye and nay vote.**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Grant – Health Department

Dr. Jeffrey Pyle, *DVM*, presented a Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Reimbursement Grant totaling \$10,000 for the Health Department. This grant is federal tax dollars and terminates on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Pyle stated he will be working with EMA Director Brown as they obtain other grants in the future. Ridenour stated last year a grant was hurried through as well. Pyle stated the last step for qualification was two weeks ago and as soon as that was completed we started the process. Little asked if this was approved subject to qualification. Pyle stated yes. Pyle admitted the Health Department has known about this grant since early 2010. Ridenour and Little stated the department needs to show more foresight for future grants. Pyle stated he was in agreement and this has been discussed with the employees at the Health Department. Ridenour stated we cannot vote on this due to the fact that it was not on the agenda but Council unanimously gave approve for the Health Department to move forward with the process of this grant. It will be formally advertised and presented at the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**BINDING REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE 2011 WABASH COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT:**

Ridenour stated due to the criteria set by the State, the Solid Waste District budget is a binding review.

- Solid Waste Executive Director Steve Johnson and Controller Ken Ahlfeld stated this is not a property tax source of income; it is from tipping fees.
- The budget is approximately 20% lower than was presented in 2010 in the materials management payment
- Lower recycling revenues will force an additional appropriation from Solid Waste's General Fund to complete the 2010 year.
- Drop off recycling program (paper, cans, bottles, cardboard, aluminum and steel cans) will be discontinued. A twenty (20) year plan of action has been reviewed and ways were looked at to balance the budget and this avenue was the best route because this service can be provided by the private sector more easily than toxic waste recycling. Johnson said they will assist the public sector in setting this program up within the County.

Little stated if we are spending \$126,000 for personal services and contracting out for education, he feels drop-off recycling should not be dropped; instead other items need to be cut from the budget. Johnson stated we have looked at a number of avenues for funding such as a user fee or tax fee that would be placed on local residents and businesses which would have to come through the Council for approval. Council unanimously agreed they would not approve this option. Nose stated this step is backwards. We have always been trying to keep the recycling items out of the landfill and now it will go back into the landfill. Johnson stated the hours are 8 to 5 Monday thru Friday and in those hours last year SWD served 1,300 people. Ridenour stated the numbers are higher than 1,300 at the drop offs. Johnson said statistics show that 10% of the population actually take their items to the drop offs. Ahlfeld stated we cannot continue to offer this for free; it is too expensive. Ridenour stated if this is a desire of the community to continue this service we need to look into the budget to see how it can continue. Johnston stated it would cost at least \$150,000 to continue the drop-off recycling service. Evans asked if we could have sponsored amnesty days to help with costs. Johnson stated all revenues collected go to the collection contract.

- No salary increases were requested.

Ridgeway stated the County Council has to approve and adopt the SWD budget this year. Ridgeway stated we will advertise this along with the other county budgets for final adoption on September 13th.

NON-BINDING REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF 2011 WABASH COUNTY TAXING UNITS CIVIL BUDGETS:

- Paw-Paw Township  
Paw-Paw Township Trustee Kraig Ahlfeld stated he raised the General Fund \$500; raised the Fire Fund \$4,320; raised the Recreation Fund \$1,500.
- Chester Township
- Wabash Civil City
- North Manchester Civil Town  
Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Mugford stated the proposed budget is actually down. The levy shows it is at 5% but it will still go down. There is an increase for insurance. As of now, no salary increases were placed in the budget. A budget discussion will be held on August 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss salaries.
- Roann Public Library
- North Manchester public Library  
Library Director Teresa Tyner stated their budget is non-binding unless they go over the 2.9%. Discussed the growth quotient and tax levy.
- Waltz Township:  
Waltz Township Trustee Tammy White stated general budget is down \$30; Township Assistance down \$10,000
- Pleasant Township
- Liberty Township
- Noble Township:  
Township Trustee Sue Ridenour stated there is a 2% increase in Investigating; changed bond; Township Assistance increased from \$9,000 to \$16,000 for the first six (6) months from 2009 and 2010 due to the economy – including funerals at \$1,600 per burial; included mileage for the first time. Ridenour stated she is doing a great deal of investigating by car at this point.
- Lagro Township:  
Deputy Trustee Flo Dahlstrom and Andy DeLong Trustee-Elect for 2011 - stated the budget was cut \$80,000 by the State that they did not anticipate. Dahlstrom stated they may need to do an emergency fire loan for up to \$138,000 which will put a rate of 13.8 cents per dollar on the residents. Dahlstrom stated she had to borrow \$30,000 from the Lagro General Fund for cash because \$32,000 was overspent for the Lincolnville fire station built in 2008. (Cash is there in the bank but not on paper). Dahlstrom stated she is not sure why her budget dropped. George Helton of the DLGF stated the levy had changed and it dropped the budget by 50%. Dahlstrom stated she must pay \$35,000 insurance cost with only a \$68,000 budget. Dahlstrom stated there is a lot of missing paperwork. Also, by January 1, 2013, new narrow band radios must be obtained. Ridenour requested Auditor's Office contact EMA



Director Bob Brown to assist with a grant for the cost of radios. Ridenour stated he would like clarification from Helton on this budget increase in relationship to the State growth quotient. Council thanked Dahlstrom and Delong for their efforts.

2010 Appointment to Economic Development Commission

Mayor Bob Vanlandingham requested Council appoint Rob Pearson to the City Economic Development Commission retroactively as of February 1, 2010. Curless made a motion to appoint Rob Pearson to the EDC; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed by a 7-0 vote.

**Council Reviewed:**

June 30, 2010 Auditor and Treasurer Financial Reports  
REGION III-A 2009 Annual Report and 2011 Annual Appropriations Request = \$12,445  
Notification from City and County Redevelopment Commission of TIF Allocation Areas  
Worksheet of Property Owner Address – requested by Mike Ridenour

**NOTE**

- Resident Larry Dockter expressed his concern with the WCSWD proposed discontinuation of the drop off sites.
- Ridenour stated the departmental budget review times are set to start August 17<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M; August 18<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 P.M. to ?; August 19<sup>th</sup>: start at 4:00 P.M. for budget discussion. The regular August meeting will begin at 5:00 P.M.

Kaltenmark 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 July 26<sup>th</sup> Council meeting:**

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

Sheila Rhoades  
Bob Land  
Larry Dockter  
Bonnie Corn  
Rebecca Kubacki  
Troy Carey  
Flo Dahlstrom  
Steve Johnson  
Kraig Ahlfeld  
Steve Hicks  
Andy DeLong

Rebecca Warmuth  
Merlin Ridgeway  
Teresa Tyner  
Carrie Mugford  
Joy Harber  
Sue Ridenour  
Ware Wimberley III  
Ken Ahlfeld  
Kristina Lynn  
Bob Brown  
Jack & Sandy Ferguson

\*Approved as written – August 19, 2010