

AUGUST 9, 2010

JOINT SPECIAL SESSION

Wabash County Council, Wabash County Sheriff, Wabash County Sheriff's Merit Board and the Wabash County Commissioners met in Joint Special Session on August 9, 2010 at 5:00 P.M. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse to discuss possible amendments and funding for the Wabash County Police Retirement Plan and Benefit Plan.

Council members Mike Ridenour, Daryl Evans, Randy Curless, James Kaltenmark, Gary Nose and Ted Little were present along with Commissioners Barry Eppley, Scott Givens and Brian Hauptert; Wabash County Sheriff Leroy Striker and Merit Board members: Kristina Lynn, Terri Weaver, Robert Fuller, Mike Brane and Dr. Dean Gifford. Also present were County Attorney Steve Downs, Coordinator/Human Resources Director Jim Dils, and Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway.

Discussion was held concerning the large increase in recommended contributions to the plan following the amendments passed in 2008. At the time the plan was presented to Council to be "self-funded" by Civil Process Claims served by the Sheriff's Department. Due to the audit of actual collections received, the County now understands that Civil Process fees are only collected once by the Clerk at the time the case is filed but may require service of warrants multiple times through the conclusion of the case. This has caused a shortfall of collections to fully fund the Plan and is requiring increased funding from the County General Fund.

Little read an email from Elaine Beaty of McCready and Keene, Inc. to Sheriff Leroy Striker with the determined cost of four proposed plan changes – two hypothetical and two actual for ages 55 and 52, with COLA until 62, and without COLA. The Council has proposed changing the retirement age back to 55 if this could be a substantial cost savings to the taxpayers. No written amendment was presented and Little stated he thought this was "Too important a decision to do it wrong" and would like more definite information as to funding requirements for each proposed change. Merit Board President Lynn also expressed the same concern; they would like to know exactly what a proposed change would mean.

Another proposed amendment concerning ownership of the plan was discussed: The need to change the "Employer" of the Plan from the Sheriff to the County as the Merit Deputies are employees of the County and the County is the employer who pays their wages, benefits, etc.

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Following discussions and with a consensus of those present, it was decided to meet again with Little and Fuller obtaining more financial information and Lynn and Downs researching additional legal information.

Ridenour called for another Joint Special Session to be held on Tuesday, August 24th for the purpose of continuing this discussion with more information and research available. The meeting was then adjourned on a motion by Markstahler, second by Curless and a unanimous vote.

*Approved as written by the Wabash County Council – September 13, 2010