

## AUGUST 19, 2010

Wabash County Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 19, 2010 at the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Mike 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 Claude 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 July 26, 2010 meeting. Evans made a motion to approve the minutes as written; his motion was seconded by Little and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Special guest Matt Bell, Executive Director of the Northeast Indiana Chamber and former State Representative from Avilla discussed the status of the NE Indiana Regional Chamber initiative.

The next order of business was to discuss the Additional Appropriation request tabled March 22, 2010:

**COUNTY GENERAL FUND 0001 – COMMISSIONERS 0029**  
**Personal Services – Sheriff’s Pension Fund – 2010    \$60,000.00**

Auditor Ridgeway stated there have been no contributions made in 2010. Ridenour asked if the Rainy Day Fund could be used to pay this request. Wabash County Commissioner Brian Haupert stated it is an unfunded liability and it is permissible. Ridgeway stated this will need to be re-advertised before it is appropriated. Little made a motion to take the request off the table and deny payment from the County General Fund and ask the Commissioners to request payment from the Rainy Day Fund; 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 IX**

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
<b><u>COUNTY GENERAL FUND 0001</u></b>				
<b><u>County Auditor - 0002</u></b>				
0001-0002-04-444-042 Capital Outlay – Office Furniture & Equipment	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	7	0

The request is to purchase several bookcases and /or storage file cabinets for accounting binders and required records of the Auditor’s office including creating space for filing the State’s new Homestead and Mortgage Verification forms.

Little made a motion to approve the request; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed by a 7-0 vote. Ridenour asked about the use of the Auditor's Plat Fee Fund. Ridgeway stated it was started three (3) years ago and has an approximate balance of \$14,000. Ridgeway stated it has only been used in the past for book binding. She said this fund is for maintaining the property records of the Auditor's office and she may request using this account in 2012 towards her GIS Deputy's salary; who maintains the property plat/map records.

**PROBATION ADULT USER FEE FUND 0060**

<b>0060-0000-01-412-015 Personal Services – Mentor Coordinator</b>	<b>\$ 3,470</b>	<b>\$ 3,470</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
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This Officer would respectfully request that this Council approve the transfer of \$3,469.23 from the Adult Probation User Fee to assist in the facilitation of an At-Risk Youth Mentoring Program. This officer, along with the Honorable Robert R. McCallen III, met with this Council on June 28, 2010 to discuss this program. During that meeting, this Council agreed to approve the funding of this program, through Wabash County Adult Probation User Fees, for the balance of 2010. On the aforementioned date, \$2,808.30 was transferred from an existing line item to begin paying Rick Tolley to initiate the program. Tolley is to be paid \$15 per hour for ten (10) to fifteen (15) hours per week.

Ridenour thanked Chief Probation Officer Dallas Duggan for finding alternative ways to fund this program. Evans made a motion to approve the request; his motion was seconded by Nose and passed by a 7-0 vote.

**HEALTH – BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS GRANT FUND 0196**

<b>0196-2010-02-422-047 Supplies – Nurse Supplies</b>	<b>\$ 1,626</b>	<b>\$ 1,626</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>0196-2010-03-436-062 Other Services &amp; Charges</b>				
<b>– Equipment Repair</b>	<b>\$ 376</b>	<b>\$ 376</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>0196-2010-04-444-042 Capital Outlay – Equipment</b>	<b>\$ 7,998</b>	<b>\$ 7,998</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

This request is to strengthen emergency response and preparedness related to Mass Prophylaxis and Crisis Emergency Risk Communications.

Wabash County Health Officer Dr. Dean Gifford stated the grant monies are handed down from the federal government to the State then to the counties to help insure a prompt response in the threat of bio-terrorism that affect the health of residents within the counties. Little made a motion to approve the 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2010 by the above aye and nay vote.

**Binding Review of 2011 Wabash County Solid Waste District Budget**

Director Steve Johnson and Controller Ken Ahlfeld discussed the budget with Council.

- Ridenour stated the drop-off recycling will be available for the rest of 2010 and the Council would like to work on continuing this next year.
- Johnson stated they will let their current contract run out and re-bid this project by October and are planning to accept bids in the next few weeks.

- Nose stated there is no money in next year's budget to fund the recycling drop-off sites. Johnson stated this is true but they will continue to look at the current budget to see if they can continue this program as long as possible until they can look into furthering this with public sector funding to possibly keep the program running.
- Kaltenmark asked if there were other communities that have gone from SWD to private. Johnson stated he did not have any example –it was only in theory.
- Johnson stated they are working with Wabash County ARC and Pathfinders to possibly obtain their participation in the request for proposal process.
- Nose stated he is not comfortable voting for a budget that does not include the recycle drop-off program costs and stated the public sector taking this over will not work because there is not much profit. Evans stated he is in conflict as well. Nose stated he wants to know if changes can be made to insure this program stays open.
- Johnson stated the main priority is keeping toxic waste out of the landfills.
- Ridenour stated this budget does not need to be submitted until October 1<sup>st</sup>. This year's budget is \$200,000 less than last year's budget. Johnson stated this service will cost around \$200,000 per year to maintain.
- Little stated we look at what other counties are doing and we want to be fair. He said personal services expenditures for Miami County were \$62,000, Huntington County spent \$75,000 and Wabash spent \$117,000 - approximately. Johnson stated Huntington County does not do curb side recycling; most services are provided by the City. Miami County has eleven (11) drop-off sites by a local contractor that provides services.
- Johnson stated they looked at having drop boxes brought to their facility at no cost as long as they were pre-sorted. But that was in competition with the current SWD contract. Johnson stated this program could still be looked into.
- Ridenour stated he would like to see a solid idea on how they intend to work out a Plan B for the recycling process.
- Council discussed ways to assist the 2011 budget to allow the recycling program to be funded: cutting salaries, cutting the number of employees, charging a fee to residents rather than just using tipping fees, raising tipping fees, reducing the hours of operation, joining a multiple county solid waste district - Nose stated it is a State law that you must be in a SWD but we can be in a multiple county district. Johnson stated this was done early on and it was decided it was best as a solitary unit. Those counties that are together have difficulty because the main county gets the representation not the smaller counties.

- Cindy Flannigan of Wabash read a letter she wrote in support to reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Teresa Witkoske, Extension Office Director stated her opinion on needing alternative options for the program.
- Larry Dockter stated his concerns on the SWD budget and the need to keep the drop-off recycle program.
- Nose stated in the Association of Indiana Counties 2010 Fact-book only four counties in the 35,000 – 40,000 population range have submitted 2010 budget appropriation information: Dubois - \$215,000, Knox - \$269,618, Montgomery - \$153,600 and Wabash - \$358,030.
- Johnson stated the SWD budget is advertised to be adopted on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Curless stated the information wanted regarding keeping this program running beyond 2010 will not be available by September 13<sup>th</sup> even if we postpone the approval of the budget. Commissioner Hauptert stated the program is not going to be what it is currently *i.e.*: three sites as opposed to five, but there is room in the budget to try to keep it up and running. Curless made a motion to adopt this budget as presented with the stipulation that Johnson attends all upcoming Council meetings to inform Council of the progress regarding keeping the recycling drop-off program running; his motion was seconded by Little and passed by a 4-3 vote; Nose, Evans and Markstahler opposed.

#### **Non Binding Review of 2011 Civil Unit Budgets**

- Wabash Public Library – Library Director Ware Wimberly III stated the proposed budget for the library is at a 2.8% growth quotient. There are increases in office equipment and a 2% salary increase. Little asked what the policy for non-residents is. Wimberly stated the library computers have internet access and are available to the public without a required library card or a fee. For the book borrowing cards, a non-resident fee is required by State. In 2010, there was a fee of \$60.00 per year per individual or family for non- Wabash City residents.
- Liberty Township – Trustee Larry Manning stated the growth quotient is at a negative 3.14%
- Town of Lagro – Little stated the budget looks like it is a 19% increase. Clerk-Treasurer Maxine Baker stated she may need to make some reductions in this budget. She submitted her budget as was presented last year for 2010 so it looks like a major increase, but she was advised to submit what looks higher in hopes that the State would give back a portion of the budget prior to the 2010 cuts. Baker stated additional appropriations may needed to cover the 2010 budget. She would like documentation on how and where the LOIT is distributed to the townships. Baker stated there are utilities that do supplement the salaries for the employees and she hopes to be able to use those for the remainder of 2010 rather than do an additional appropriation.

- Town of LaFontaine
- Town of Roann
- Wabash City School Systems – Jan Roland stated she is advertising \$200,000 over last year’s budget; DLGF projects were usually approved at \$1.6 million where 2010 approved for \$1.2 million; transportation fuel costs have an increase; replacing two (2) buses at \$100,000 per bus; rate is at .84 cents; Roland stated we did not cut any teachers at this point; enrollment is a little above 1,500 right now – count day is September 15<sup>th</sup>. Council discussed enrollment and causes for fluctuations in enrollment. Out of 112 kids in kindergarten last year 99 of them were on free lunch program. Roland stated this is why they have started the summer feeding program.
- Manchester Community School System- Steve Shoemaker stated \$1 million was cut out of the budget; had to let fourteen (14) non-teacher employees go; there is no longer a business program; debt service has gone down due to the fact that the elementary schools will be partially paid off in the 2011 and fully paid off in 2012 – the only debt will be the high school renovation; capital projects are advertised to take care of costs of the general funds; transportation is a levy max fund with 2% growth; bus replacement is down significantly with only one bus replacement at \$115,000; we will be close to \$1 rate; there are no construction plans. Shoemaker stated there is no rule that a school system must provide transportation.
- Wabash County MSD Assistant Superintendant Dr. Brian Dawson contacted Ridgeway stating he would be unable to attend – but noted the 2011 budget had no changes from 2011 and no new construction.

Council Reviewed:

July 31, 2010 Auditor and Treasurer Financial Reports

Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Curless and passed with a 6-0 vote. Ridenour had left the meeting early.

**The following individuals attended the August 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting:**

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

Sheila Rhoades	Ware Wimberly III
Larry Dockter	Kimberly Pinkerton
Jan Roland	Matt Bell
Steve Shoemaker	Maxine Baker
Teresa Witkoske	Cindy Flannigan
Steve Johnson	Ken Ahlfeld
Brian Hauptert	Scott Givens

Approved as written – September 13, 2010