

AUGUST 24, 2010

**JOINT SPECIAL SESSION
WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL
WABASH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Wabash County Council, Wabash County Sheriff, Wabash County Sheriff's Merit Board and the Wabash County Commissioners met in Joint Special Session on August 24, 2010 at 5:00 P.M. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse to further 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, Bob Fuller, and Mike Brane. Also present were County Attorney Steve Downs, Elaine Beaty Vice President of McCready and Keene, Inc, Coordinator/Human Resources Director Jim Dils, and Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway. Prayer was offered by Kaltenmark and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ridenour.

Beaty and Downs discussed the definition of the "Employer" of the Plan and all present seemed in agreement to changing the Plan to have the County as the Employer. Beaty said she would recommend the plan be restated to this effect but would need to do more research to be certain that this did not change the intent or restrict any of the meaning of the Plan or effect the benefits due to employment in other positions within the County. Striker agreed but wanted to make sure that only Sheriff's Merit Deputy salaries are to be included in the Plan.

The group then discussed changing the retirement age retroactively back to 55 as prior to the Second Amendment made in 2008. They also discussed COLA as a post-retirement benefit.

Striker presented copies of Claims for Civil Process served back to 2003 and explained this is why he believed the plan had the appearance that it was "self-funded".

Downs stated that following the discovery of the collections and contributions increase, the County has taken the position that the County cannot afford the plan as it now is stated.

Ridenour said that he would not be opposed to listening to another plan for funding such as the deputies contributing a share of cost individually. Nose said he believed there was a statutory limit of 6% payable by the employees.

AUGUST 24, 2010

Lynn stated she did not feel the Merit Board needed to have another meeting as she and Weaver had both had informal conversations with many of the officers and feel they know their biggest concerns having additional deputies on the department, understand that the County cannot afford the Plan as it now and it has to change.

Evans moved for the Council to amend the Plan retroactively back to age 55 with no COLA as prior to the 2008 amendment, excepting the one employee who has recently retired. His motion was seconded by Little and passed by the Wabash County Council on a 6-0 vote.

Weaver then moved to approve the same motion of the Council by the Merit Board. Fuller seconded the motion and the motion passed by a 4-0 vote of the Wabash County Sheriff's Merit Board. Sheriff Striker stated he wanted to reserve comments until he sees the dollar amounts of the changed Plan.

Downs asked about a motion to amend the Plan to list Wabash County as the Employer instead of the Sheriff. Sheriff Striker stated that he does not have a problem with that change.

Nose then made a motion for the Council to pass an amendment for the Employer change as proposed. His motion was seconded by Little and passed on a 6-0 vote of the Wabash County Council.

Fuller then made a motion for the Merit Board to approve the same change of Employer for the Plan. His motion was seconded by Weaver and passed by a 4-0 vote of the Merit Board.

Sheriff Striker agreed that he would also vote for the change of "Employer" to be effective immediately.

Beaty said that McCready and Keene would draft the amendments and ask that her staff put this "on the front burner" to be ready for the Council's next meeting on September 13th.

Curless moved to adjourn, Evans seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned on a 6-0 vote of the Council.

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