

## **WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, June 27, 2016 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Mike Ridenour called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Six Council members were present: Ridenour, Randy Curless, Claude Markstahler, Bill Ruppel, Jeff Dawes, and Matt Dillon. Council member Kyle Bowman was absent. County Auditor Linda Conrad was also absent. Ridenour opened with a word of prayer and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by the County Auditor's office.

Chairman Ridenour requested that those present silence their cell phones and stated that all public comments regarding agenda and non-agenda items are permitted and encouraged.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2016 meeting. Ruppel made a motion to approve the minutes. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Present for the next order of business was Wabash County Economic Development Group Executive Director, Keith Gillenwater regarding the County's current tax abatements and requirements for compliance. He explained that the County has approved tax abatement for three companies: Hipsher Tool & Die, Midwest Eye/Vision Properties, and Advanced Ag Resources. Gillenwater explained that after more specific accountability procedures had been established by Council at a previous meeting, he had made tax abatement compliance visits and has submitted his recommendations to the tax abatement committee and to the Council. He stated that Advanced Ag Resources had been previously approved for renewal. He recommended that the other two companies, Hipsher Tool & Die and Midwest Eye/Vision Properties be approved for renewal also. Ruppel made a motion to approve the renewal of tax abatement as submitted on the CF-1 form "Compliance of Statement of Benefits" to the County Assessor and County Auditor for real and personal property tax abatement as recommended by Gillenwater. Dawes seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Present for the next order of business was Amy Ford, chairman of the "Wabash River Trail" project. She handed out a brochure to Council and explained that the project will consist of a multi-use recreational path to stretch 30 miles from Huntington through Wabash and into Peru where it would connect with the Nickel Plate Trail in Miami County. She stated that the project would be separated into three phases and that Phase I would connect Wabash to Lagro, a six mile stretch along the Wabash River. Ford stated that the Phase I construction will begin in August starting east of Kerr Lock and heading west along Basin Street in Lagro. Phase I of the project would cost approximately \$6 million to construct and set up an operational maintenance budget. Private

donations are targeted at \$3.6 to \$4 million which has a \$2 million match on the first \$2 million raised. The trail's board of directors hopes to align the project with the Northeast Regional Cities Initiative. She stated that this leaves a shortfall of approximately \$1.2 million for which she asked the County for assistance in covering over the next two years. Council members discussed the proposal.

Ridenour: Stated that Ford is a person who starts things and makes them happen. He said that if there is a truer investment in economic development, he wouldn't know what it would be. He stated that he would like to consider this project using CEDIT monies and that he had been running the numbers and with the revenue expected and the current cash balance of the CEDIT Fund and the special distribution monies available, the monies would be available for budgeting over the next two years. He stated that CEDIT monies have been used for many expenses that had nothing to do with economic development and that it is time to use CEDIT money for projects such as this that would attract more residents to Wabash County and enhance the quality of life and so it's worth a try. Even though Commissioners create the budget for the CEDIT Fund, this is ultimately Council's decision.

Ruppel: Raised a question regarding the amount that Northeast Regional Cities would contribute and that the County would need to contribute to the Northeast funding. He stated that the CEDIT monies will be going away in two years and will be in "one LOIT bucket" to be decided by local government where the monies should go. He stated that while this Council may decide to include the request in 2017 budget, it wouldn't be this particular Council doing the budgeting in 2018, so maybe we shouldn't obligate future Councils to this kind of commitment.

Commissioner Hauptert: The project would need to be funded by the CEDIT Fund and included in the Capital Improvement Plan but there is currently not enough unobligated or future money to support this large of a project.

Curless: He questioned if the committee is working in cooperation with the City and are they committed to any funding?

Markstahler: As a follow-up to Ruppel's comments: the LOIT/CEDIT monies are not being altered but the means of funding will be and if there will be any monies available for this kind of project has yet to be determined. The Commissioners will do what they can with the amount of money we have.

Dawes: Agreed that CEDIT money should be used for economic development but the CEDIT fund is basically under the jurisdiction of the County Commissioners through the designation of projects in the CEDIT Fund/Capital Improvement Plan. We may not be able to use CEDIT monies completely on economic development this year, but that should be the goal if possible. We just need to take a good look at it.

No official action was taken on this proposal.

The next order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation requests. Present for the requests were: County Sheriff Bob Land and Probation Officer Trisha Haines. Chairman Ridenour stated that the advertised

additional appropriations from the Health Fund for \$3,500.00 and the Local Health Trust for \$15,750.00 as requested by the County Health Department have been postponed until a later Council meeting.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**  
**ORDINANCE #2016-85-06**

**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, 2016 the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:**

**LOIT PUBLIC SAFETY FUND- #1170**

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Inmate Transfers #117030331.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	6	0

Explanation: Submitted by Sheriff Land: Requesting additional appropriation to pay for Inmate Transfers to Miami County. \$214,770 has been spent to date in 2016 to house additional inmates in Miami County. An additional \$1,878.00 has been spent to house an inmate for safekeeping. Current balance in account is \$31,729.00 with 46 inmates currently being held in Miami County. There are currently 6 sentenced inmates being housed in Elkhart County with a total population of 85 in Wabash County.

Ruppel made a motion to approve the request for an additional appropriation. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

**JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE FUND- #9110**

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Office Equipment #9110-40420.000.0000	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	6	0

Explanation: Submitted by Chief Probation Officer, Sara Lochner: The Indiana Judicial Center has provided \$5,000.00 in grant funding to be used for the implementation and coordination of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. This funding will be used to add an additional copier/printer/fax/scanner to our office to support the needs of JDAI. We are requesting that the money be appropriated into the proper account.

Dawes made a motion to approve the request for an additional appropriation. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

**Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted this 27rd day of June, 2016 by the above aye and nay vote. The Auditor was directed to present the above additional appropriation to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as provided by law.**

The next order of business was an amendment to the existing Rainy Day Ordinance regarding the possible transfer of the LOIT special distribution money. Council members discussed the options. Ruppel made a motion to leave the LOIT Special Distribution money within the Rainy Day Fund but to designate three usages for the Rainy Day money; one for accrued employee benefits, one for emergency use, and one for jail financing. Curless seconded the motion. Discussion followed about transferring monies for jail financing to the Cum. Capital Development Fund and then continue to accrue money for the Jail in this fund. Council members agreed that this could be problematic for budgeting because the cash balance of the fund affects the tax rate and the amount that can be raised through tax revenue. Council members also suggested that the special distribution monies be transferred to a separate home-ruled fund out of the Rainy Day Fund that would not affect the tax levy. Ruppel withdrew his motion with agreement by Curless, so no vote was taken.

Instead, Ruppel made a motion to move the special distribution money in the amount of \$471,963.83 to a new “County Special Distribution” Fund. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Dillon made a motion to suspend the rules of two required readings of an ordinance and to consider the amended ordinance after one reading. Curless seconded the motion and it passed with a 6-0 vote.

Ruppel made a motion to adopt Ordinance #85-04-2016 amending the Rainy Day Ordinance #85-12-2007, excluding jail financing within the Rainy Day Fund and including two designated usages for accrued employee benefits and emergency usage as designated in the former version of the ordinance. The motion also included the requirement of an affirmative vote of at least five (5) of the seven (7) members of the Wabash County Council to deposit revenue in the Rainy Day Fund and to appropriate money from the Fund . Dillon seconded the motion and it passed with a 6-0 vote. See Ordinance #85-04-2016 below:

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA  
AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA**

**GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 85-04-2016  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 85-12-2007 WHICH CREATED THE RAINY  
DAY FUND.**

Under I.C. 36-1-8-5, by Ordinance No. 85-12-2007, the County established the Wabash County Rainy Day Fund.

That ordinance was previously amended by Ordinance Nos. 85-12-2013, 2014-85-18, and 85-15-2015.

The County now wishes to further amend Ordinance 85-12-2007.

The Department of Local Government Finance may not reduce the County’s actual or maximum permissible levy as a result of a balance in the Rainy Day Fund.

From time to time, the County finds itself having to pay certain non-recurring expenses that were unanticipated at the time its budget was adopted.

To cover such expenses, the County wished to broaden the purpose for which monies in the Rainy Day Fund may be used.

The purpose of the Rainy Day Fund should be to pay non-recurring, unanticipated, and unbudgeted expenses for:

- a. Accrued, but unused employee benefits due employees at the time their employment with the County terminates,
- b. Transfer of Prisoners
- c. Cumulative Reassessment services
- d. Elections
- e. PERF Retirement
- f. Unemployment
- g. Professional Services
- h. Legal Consultant/Services
- i. Commissioners' Attorney
- j. Personnel Administration Committee
- k. Postage
- l. Mileage/Travel
- m. Telephone
- n. CASA Grant – County match
- o. Legal Ads, Sheriff Pension Actuarial Fees,
- p. Official Bonds,
- q. Copier Maintenance
- r. Animal Shelter Allocation
- s. ARC of Wabash County
- t. Exam of Records
- u. Change of Venue
- v. Dues & Subscriptions
- w. Sheriff Pension Trustee Fees
- x. Soldier Burial
- y. Animal Testing, and
- z. Computer Maintenance Contract

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The purpose of the Wabash County Rainy Day Fund shall be to pay non-recurring, unanticipated, and unbudgeted expenses for:

- 1.1 Accrued, but unused employee benefits due employees at the time their employment with the County terminates,
- 1.2 Transfer of Prisoners
- 1.3 Cumulative Reassessment services
- 1.4 Elections
- 1.5 PERF Retirement
- 1.6 Unemployment
- 1.7 Professional Services
- 1.8 Legal Consultant/Services
- 1.9 Commissioners' Attorney
- 1.10 Personnel Administration Committee
- 1.11 Postage
- 1.12 Mileage/Travel
- 1.13 Telephone
- 1.14 CASA Grant – County match
- 1.15 Legal Ads, Sheriff Pension Actuarial Fees,
- 1.16 Official Bonds,
- 1.17 Copier Maintenance
- 1.18 Animal Shelter Allocation
- 1.19 ARC of Wabash County
- 1.20 Exam of Records
- 1.21 Change of Venue
- 1.22 Dues & Subscriptions
- 1.23 Sheriff Pension Trustee Fees
- 1.24 Soldier Burial
- 1.25 Animal Testing, and
- 1.26 Computer Maintenance Contract

2. The source of funding for the Rainy Day Fund shall still include unused and unencumbered funds under:
  - 2.1 I.C. 36-1-8-5 (special tax levy)
  - 2.2 I.C. 6-3.5-1.1-21.1 (CAGIT special account);
  - 2.3 I.C. 6-3.5-6-17.3 (COIT special account);
  - 2.4 I.C. 6-3.5-7-17.3 (CEDIT special account);
  - 2.5 Any other funding source specified in resolution adopted under I.C. 36-1-8-5.1 and not otherwise prohibited by law; and/or
  - 2.6 Interest earned on monies in the fund;

But shall be no more than 10% of the County’s fiscal budget per fiscal year.

3. Any resolution to deposit funds into the Rainy Day Fund shall require the affirmative vote of at least five (5) of the seven (7) members of the Wabash County Council.

4. Subject to the provisions of IC 36-1-8-5.1, the Rainy Day Fund is still subject to the same appropriation process as other County funds that receive tax money, except that appropriations from this Fund will require the affirmative vote of a least five (5) of the seven (7) members of the County Council.

ADOPTED by the County Council of Wabash County, Indiana this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA  
By: Mike Ridenour, Chairman

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Wabash County, Indiana, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA  
By: Barry J. Eppley, Chairman

Attest: Linda Conrad, Wabash County Auditor

This additional appropriation request was moved on the agenda to be considered after the amended Rainy Day Fund ordinance was approved.

**RAINY DAY FUND- #1186**

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>	AYE	NAY
Accrued/Used Employee Benefits #1186-11316.000.0000	\$1,620.00	\$1,620.00	6	0

Explanation: Prosecutor’s office employee (G. Baker) leaving employment. She has 140 hours accrued vacation time. Most of the vacation hours will be paid by the Prosecutor Title IV-D budget but not enough to pay in full.

Ruppel made a motion to approve the request for an additional appropriation. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

**Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted this 27<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2016 by the above aye and nay vote. The Auditor was directed to present the above additional appropriation to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as provided by law.**

Council reviewed:

Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports for May 2016

May 2016 Wabash County Solid Waste Management District Income & Expense Statement

With no other business to come before the Wabash County Council, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2016.

**The following individuals also attended the June 27th Council meeting:**

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

Chief Deputy Auditor Marcie Shepherd, Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube, County Commissioners; Barry Eppley, Brian Haupt, and Scott Givens, Attorney Steve Downs, Attorney Mark Frantz, Lorissa Sweet, Philip Dale, Purdue Extension Director Teresa Witkoske, Bonnie Corn, Alex Corn, Nick Sears, Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Mackenzie Klemann, The Paper reporter, Emma Rausch and "105.9 The Bash" radio reporter, Tim Arnett.