

JUNE 22, 2009

Wabash County Council met in regular session on Monday, June 22, 2009 at the Wabash County Courthouse. Prayer was offered by Mike Ridenour. Chairman Ridenour then called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. with six members present: Gary Nose, Jim Kaltenmark, Mike Ridenour, Ted Little, Daryl Evans, and Randy Curless. Claude Markstahler was absent. 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 May 26th meeting. Little made a motion to approve the minutes as written; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 6-0 vote. The minutes of the June 10th Executive Session were also reviewed. Evans made a motion to approve as written; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed with a 6-0 vote.

The next order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation requests as advertised for Additional Appropriations Ordinance 2009 NO 6:

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE 2009 NO 6**

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
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**COUNTY GENERAL FUND
SHERIFF**

0001-0005-01-412-022 Personal Services – AACTION Payroll Community Grant)	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	6	0	(Drug –Free
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Requesting money from the AACTION Enforcement Grant (0111-0000-03-439-110) be appropriated into the AACTION Payroll account to be used for enforcement of a Drug Free Community.

Curless made a motion to approve appropriating \$800 from AACTION Enforcement Grant to the Sheriff’s AACTION Payroll account; his motion was seconded by Nose and passed by a 6-0 vote.

COUNTY COUNCIL

0001-0030-03-432-023 Other Services and Charges – Travel/Mileage & Conference Expenses	\$ 128.00	\$ 128.00	6	0
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This request is to bring account out of negative. Travel & mileage were under estimated at budget.

Ridenour stated several council members have attended numerous meetings for continued education and it has depleted this line item. Evans made a motion to approve request for travel/mileage & conference expenses totaling \$128; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 6-0 vote.

WABASH COUNTY POLICE PENSION FUND 0022

0022-0000-05-451-001 Personal Services – Sheriff’s Fund – Claims served – May ’09	\$ 3,718.00	\$ 3,718.00	6	0
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Request is for 171 claims @ \$13.00 – Superior Court, 115 claims @ \$13.00 – Circuit Court, Secretary’s Report.

Little made a motion to approve this request; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 6-0 vote.

E911 – LANDLINE FUND 0054

0054-0000-04-444-044 Capital Outlay – Other Equipment	\$10,066.00	\$10,066.00	6	0
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The request is to upgrade the 800 MHZ radio transmission system in the North Manchester area. In introducing the 800 MHZ Public Safety Radio system in this area the handheld radios do not have consistent transmit and receive capability, most of the time the handheld radios work from different tower locations in the northern portion of the county. This problem is because the State of Indiana should have placed an additional tower in the area but did not. Our radio vendor has recommended this amplifier (booster) unit be installed to correct the problem. In our discussions with the vendor we have made it clear that if this does not fix the problem that the county will not pay any costs for installation, the actual equipment or the dismantling of the same.

EMA Director Bob Brown stated Cass County had similar problems with inconsistent transmitting. They installed this same amplifier booster and it has been very successful. Ridenour asked when this equipment was implemented. Striker stated they began the infrastructure in 2003 and have continued with the process per State request ensuring all law enforcement agencies are in radio connect. Nose made a motion to approve implementation of the 800 MHZ radio transmission system in North Manchester; his motion was seconded by Evans and passed by a 6-0 vote.

HEALTH HOMELAND SECURITY

0146-0000-02-422-044 Supplies – Signs & Supplies	\$ 2,948.00	\$ 2,948.00	6	0
0146-0000-04-444-044 Capital outlay – Other Equipment	\$17,052.00	\$17,052.00	6	0

In accordance with federal requirements, these funds must be used for public health preparedness and emergency response purposes. This is in case of power outage, to run the health department and protect the vaccine supply. The Health Department must have access to funds prior to receiving the grant funds. The funds will then be reimbursed when paid receipts are turned in to the State.

Dr. Dean Gifford, Wabash County Health Officer, Kathryn Carter-Lower, Vital Records – Health Department and Bill Feldheiser, Indiana State Department of Health over District 3, presented information on the generator. Feldheiser stated the generator is necessary to run the Health Department for any bioterrorism outbreak, vaccine back-up system for refrigeration/freezer unit and communication center incase of emergency to the ISDH and CDC. Feldheiser stated he is over eleven different Counties and many of them currently (Allen, DeKalb, and Noble) have this system in place and other

counties are looking into implementing this system. Ridenour stated Wabash County Hospital has a place to store these vaccines if necessary. Also the power requirements for the refrigerator/freezer could be backed-up with a 12 volt battery and an inverter that resident Herb Mullen had researched would cost around \$700. Feldheiser stated this is more than just a vaccine issue. It is bigger than that alone. Little spoke with Dr. Jeffrey Pyle, Chairman of the Wabash County Health Board and Pyle stated the water sprinkler system in the judicial system could also be run by this generator if there was a power outage. Ridenour stated the cost of maintenance and gas delivery charge is around \$660 on an annual basis to the County. Feldheiser stated such operating costs are not under the grant agreement. Feldheiser stated the grant does cover the cost of hooking to our present system and the concrete pad. County Coordinator Jim Dils stated this generator can run the twenty four (24) panel circuit breaker panel in the Health Department. Dils stated the only issue is with the phone system. There is no service except the EMA office which is on a different system. Dils stated he is waiting to hear back from Verizon on if the phone system will work with this generator in the Health Department. Dils stated all quotes are current and solid. Evans asked, if you are spending \$16,000 on the generator what will the remainder be spent on? Feldheiser stated a portion will be spent on the sidewalk and the installment of the gas line. The remainder will be spent on emergency preparedness items. Little made a motion to approve the Health Homeland Security Grant totaling \$20,000; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 6-0 vote.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 22nd day of June, 2009 by the above aye and nay vote.

Next the Council addressed transfer requests No. 2009-11, No. 2009-12, and No. 2009-13:

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. 2009-11**

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, 2009 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
DECREASE:				
COUNTY GENERAL FUND – AUDITOR				
0001-0002-02-421-011 Office Supplies	\$838.10	\$838.10	6	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:

COUNTY GENERAL FUND –AUDITOR

000-0002-04-444-042 Capital Outlay	\$838.10	\$838.10	6	0
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To purchase two large HON metal storage cabinets with locks needed for confidential payroll records storage and one HON 5-shelf open bookcase cabinet for Auditor's office reports and transaction binders. Purchase approved by Commissioners. No Capital Outlay appropriations budgeted by Council.

Auditor Jane Ridgeway stated she was able to get a quote with the K&R office equipment warehouse sale which lowered the original low bid by K&R by \$150 per cabinet. Evans made a motion to approve the purchase of the two large metal storage cabinets for Auditor's Office; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed by a 6-0 vote.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 22nd day of June, 2009, by the above aye and nay vote.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION

NO. 2009-12

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, 2009 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:

LOCAL ROAD & STREET FUND

	Amount Requested	Amount Appropriated	AYE	NAY
DECREASE:				
0011-0000-04-447-074 Capital Outlay				
Town Street Restoration	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	6	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:

LOCAL ROAD & STREET FUND

0011-0000-03-439-064 Other Services & Charges				
On Call Engineering	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	6	0

This is needed to cover the costs incurred for engineering services for applications to ARRA Projects.

Phil Amones, Highway Superintendent, stated several applications for projects were submitted. Word has not been received on approval for any of these

proposed projects. Kaltenmark made a motion to approve payment of application costs for potential ARRA projects; his motion was seconded by Little and passed by a 6-0 vote.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 22nd day of June, 2009, by the above aye and nay vote.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. 2009-13**

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, 2009 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
DECREASE:				
COUNTY GENERAL FUND - COURTHOUSE				
0001-0032-03-436-067 Other Services & Charges- Lawn Care	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	6	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:				
COUNTY GENERAL FUND - COURTHOUSE				
0001-0032-04-444-044 Capital Outlay - Other Equipment	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	6	0
This request is to replace the Courthouse lawn mower.				

Curless made a motion to approve purchase of lawn mower for Wabash County Courthouse; his motion was seconded by Evans and passed by a 6-0 vote. This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 22nd day of June, 2009, by the above aye and nay vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Community Corrections fiscal 2009-2010 Budget-Director Jeff Hobson

Ridenour stated he had one question on a sustainability statement; explain how this program will be sustained if the system is no longer appropriated? It depends on what the component is before responding on this. Some large agencies have millions of dollars and the government asks why do you need this money? Hobson stated we have to state without this funding we could not maintain this system. Ridenour stated he appreciated how CC works with the Sheriff's Department. Although the salary and wages study done may not be perfect, is a great deal improved over what we have had in the past to set salaries and wages. The study shows CC employees are paid at or above the average level based on an internal comparison. Ridenour stated he and a few

other members recommend that the officers of the CC salaries be frozen for the upcoming year. Hobson stated he has not seen this study. At the executive session, we received a hand out stating we would not get a raise. Hobson stated he knows his salaries are comparable to similar counties and does have that information. Hobson stated he does not think the county has the ability to approve a budget that has been approved by the State. Hobson stated his people need a raise. Ridenour stated this study is a normal set factor evaluation based on job descriptions and responsibilities filled out by the employees. A copy will be given to Hobson. Ridenour stated our concern has to be for Wabash County. Ridenour stated many other employee jobs in the county are not paid nearly as much as other counties. Ridenour stated the County Council sets the wages paid. That is the authority that this body holds on wages and he is recommending a wage freeze. Little asked when a budget is approved by the State, is it approved in a total dollar figure or a line by line process? Little asked does it allow dollars be shifted from the salaries to other programs – to keep the same amount of funding. Hobson stated you cannot transfer from series to series. It must stay within the series; 100 must stay in the 100, 200 must stay in the 200. If it is not kept in a series, it must be returned to the State. Ridenour stated he is working off of IC 11-12-2-3.5 which says: County Council may establish responsibilities. Ridenour stated IC 36-12-2 is also to get the salary and wages set and in line. Kim Pinkerton, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, stated performance review is looked at in the public sector. She suggested the Council may need to check with your lawyer to make sure this is legal. “In the business world, we always look into national, world and regional areas – state, local counties. To base this action on a study that Hobson has not seen, is a lack”. Ridenour said “Prior to this study we had no job descriptions. A performance study will now to be done by the department heads”. Ridenour stated “We did look at the local (external) area; but we are just not going to use it this year. Our budget will not allow, nor will our residents want to cover the cost it would take to match.” Nose expressed “If we start making exceptions we are throwing the money we spent on this study out the window. With the economy the way it is, it is difficult to let money go out the window.” Little added, “This is the most professional work our county has ever done on organizing this data. The company has done 30 or 40 other counties and they are reputable. Hobson is doing an exemplary job. To say the pay issue is due to performance is not true. We must use this study and in time the bugs will be worked out.” Hobson stated county employees received a raise in January '09]; the Community Corrections budget cycle is 6 months behind and they have not received a raise for this year. Nose stated we are looking at getting everyone at the level set and CC is at or above set levels. Nose stated the salary items are to be cut. Hobson stated the budget it is a set amount and it is going to come. Ridenour stated “The money is going to come from the State, but Council does control the distribution.” Little stated at budget time, we can go back and review numbers and see if any changes are needed. Little made a motion to approve the

Community Corrections 2009-2010 Budget without the salary increase; his motion was seconded by Nose and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Discussion of LOIT: Todd Samuelson – Umbaugh & Associates and Darren Bates – DataPitStop, Inc: Property Tax and Circuit Breaker Program

As required by Indiana Statute County Councils will review annually the Local Option Income Taxes (LOIT) imposed by the County. Samuelson gave an overview of the LOIT taxes and legislative changes and reports. He reviewed the some of the options available to the Council and answered questions of the Council and audience. Bates used the new Property Tax Circuit Breaker program he has developed to demonstrate to the Council the taxes and credits collected and applied for the past three years; and, as comparisons, possible scenarios of future taxes and credits with allowable changes in the distribution ratios of the LOIT taxes collected. This program is able to use actual Wabash County tax data from the county's website. Following discussion, Ridenour asked for a sampling of random tax statements to be pulled. Bates will do this with an analysis by type of the effect of the various distribution ratios. Ridgeway will send this information to each council member prior to the next meeting when the final LOIT review for 2009 will be completed.

Ridenour opened the floor for public discussion.

Maxine Taylor and Paul Lewis spoke to Council concerning their views.

Auditor Jane Ridgeway reported:

1. Pamphlets on County Government and Officials, their terms and job responsibilities, published by the Association of Indiana Counties are now available to the public at the Auditor's office.
2. The Council needs to set a Non-binding Civil Unit Budget review. Ridenour set July 29th at 5:00 P.M. A report of this review goes to the State. It can be individual comments or a corporate statement.
3. Presented the May 31, 2009 Financial Reports: Auditor & Treasurer

Council Member Notes:

1. Ridenour stated he has put together a list of department heads and officials divided up into seven (7) categories to be matched-up with a councilman for pre-review of submitted budgets.
2. Evans stated a Wabash County resident had attended the public LOIT meeting and was concerned that an American flag is not on display in the Commissioners meeting room. Commissioner Scott Givens stated he would speak with our Veterans Affairs' Officer to see about having one placed there.

Curless made a motion to adjourn; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed with a 6-0 vote.

The next meeting will be held Monday, July 27, 2009 at 5:00 P.M. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room at the Wabash County Courthouse.

Approved as written – July 27, 2009