

AUGUST 18, 19 & 20, 2009

Wabash County Council Members met with individual county Elected Officials and Department Heads on Tuesday, August 18 and Wednesday, August 19, 2008 beginning at 4:00 p.m. each day to review proposed Department Budgets for 2009.

Wabash County Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 20, 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 all members present: Gary Nose, Jim Kaltenmark, Mike Ridenour, Daryl Evans, Claude Markstahler and Randy Curless. Ted Little arrived at 5:10 P.M. 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 27th meeting. Markstahler made a motion to approve as written; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 6-0 vote.

The minutes for the August 11th Joint Special Session were also reviewed. Evans made a motion to approve as written; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed by a 6-0 vote.

The next order of business was to address Transfer Resolutions No. 2009-16, No. 2009-17:

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. 2009-16**

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
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DECREASE:

COUNTY HEALTH FUND

0146-0000-04-444-044 Other Equipment	\$149.00	\$149.00	7	0
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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 HEALTH FUND

0146-0000-02-422-044 Supplies	\$149.00	\$149.00	7	0
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Part of the \$20,000 Grant appropriated for a new generator and supplies. The cost of the generator and installation was not as high as expected by \$149 so they would like to transfer that amount of the appropriation for additional supplies.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 20th day of August, 2009, by the above aye and nay vote.

Curless made a motion to approve transfer of \$149 from County Health Fund – Other Equipment to County Health Fund Supplies; his motion was seconded by Nose and passed with a 7-0 vote.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. 2009-17**

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				
0001-0019-02-422-014 Voter Registration Supplies	\$852.00	\$852.00	7	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				
0001-0019-03-431-065 Leases Services Contracts	\$852.00	\$852.00	7	0

Voter registration equipment is no longer maintained by the State. We need to add equipment to CSI Maintenance agreement for remainder of 2009.

Kaltenmark made a motion to approve the transfer of \$852 from County General Voter Registration Supplies to County General Leases Services Contracts; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed with a 7-0 vote. This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 20th day of August, 2009, by the above aye and nay vote.

OTHER BUSINESS;

FINAL NON-BINDING CIVIL UNIT BUDGET REVIEWS:

Council’s verbal recommendations to all individuals presenting the 2010 budgets are summarized as follows:

- A. Suggested no salary or wage increases be requested due to the county’s economic status.
- B. The whole unit’s levy can increase not more than the county’s growth quotient.
- C. Be aware that the DLGF may cut the presented 2010 budgets if they exceed the maximum levy allowed.

Lagro Township – Steve Zellers and Sherman Gray, from the Largo Township Advisory Board, presented the 2010 budget. Gray stated all budgets were decreased except the Fire Fund. A new fire station was built; paid with cash. This leaves the Fire Account down which may need an additional appropriation, but, there is no debt. They also purchased airpacks for the Fire Departments which were \$2,000 a piece which adds up quickly. Gray stated the board is looking at shifting a few funds to Poor Relief. The weak economy has increased individuals requesting aide; the last month has been the highest. The final adoption date is set for October 7th.

Waltz Township – Tamie White, Waltz Township Trustee, presented the 2010 budget. White stated there was an increase request in the General Fund, the Township Assistance and a 10% increase requested for the Fire Departments: Noble and Converse. White stated the Fire Departments had not received an increase in five (5) years. White also requested travel expenses for a conference she would like to attend. Ridenour stated the Fire Department line item is a 10% increase but the total budget increase is less than 1%. Auditor Ridgeway stated it is a unit's total maximum levy that can increase. It is not just by fund. The whole budget and levy can increase by the state or county's growth quotient. Ridenour stated an amount can increase one fund while another fund would decrease. Ridenour stated White may need to review her budget to see if and where this can be accomplished. White stated her final adoption date is set for September 21st.

Manchester Community Schools - Steve Shumaker, Business Manager, presented the 2010 Budget. Shumaker stated although schools are not required to review their budgets with the Council, Shumaker wanted to review it personally and to be available to answer any questions. Shumaker reviewed as follows:

1. Debt Service Budget
2. Capital Projects: last year \$40,000 had to be taken out because the fire alarm systems had to be replaced in two of the elementary schools. This put a few maintenance needs on hold.
3. School Transportation; there are 18 buses with a few back-up buses. The State has a twelve year replacement plan. This year three (3) buses will need to be replaced. In 2010, the cost for a bus will be approximately \$100,000 per bus. Each bus can receive a trade in value of \$5,000 to \$7,000. The new buses will have a 78 person capacity which adds two rows. This may allow condensing routes in the future.
4. Retirement Severance Bonds
5. Rates: 2009 the proposed rate was \$1.65 – the actual was \$1.04. This year the proposed rate is \$1.80.
6. In 2009, MCS used 85% of the Assessed Valuation.

FINAL BINDING CIVIL UNIT BUDGET REVIEW:

Wabash County Solid Waste District- Steve Johnson, Director, and Ken Ahlfeld, Controller, presented the 2010 Budget with the following items noted:

1. WCSWD's two main programs are the five (5) public drop-off sites and the Manchester Avenue problem waste drop off facility. WCSWD has collected 36 million pounds of recyclables in the fourteen (14) year program.
2. WCSWD has an environmental training program through Manchester College; students go into local elementary schools during library time to teach them about recycling.
3. WCSWD supports municipalities and non-profits by providing free recycling benefits.
4. Very few items recycled make a profit. Fees charged to residents are not for staffing or overhead costs. They are for the disposal of the product. Little asked is it cost effective to separate the recycling and keep it separated. Johnson said it is more cost effective to put it all into one vehicle (co-mingle) and then send it to a company that sorts it by machine. WCSWD does have to pay to have the recyclables hauled off.
5. Johnson stated in the past, there was a build-up of revenue which allowed them to work with a larger budget. In 2006, tonnage went down by 25% because a fire attributed to aluminum smoldered waste. The mother company, Republic, made a choice not to receive any recyclable of this kind. WCSWD lost the tonnage from Wabash Alloys. Then, with the economy, there is a much smaller budget. WCSWD Board is working on how to fund the budget beyond tipping fees, \$1.40 per ton as tipping fees have dropped. Little asked if they could raise the tipping fees to increase revenues. Johnson stated raising fees would force companies to seek an alternate facility to keep their own costs to a minimum.

After reviewing the budget, Ridenour stated "if the expected levies exceed the average growth quotient, then their budget is not subject to the non-binding review, but rather, must be approved by the appropriated fiscal body." Adoption hearing is set for September 14th.

The Council asked the Auditor to prepare a comparative statement of all the county's Taxing Unit budgets for review and decided to invite all units to return to the Council's August 25th Public Budget Hearing and meeting for a final review and recommendations.

2010 WABASH COUNTY BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

The Council continued their review of the Wabash County 2010 budgets and worked on estimated maximum levy information from the Department of Local

Government Finance (DLGF) who has still not been able to certify counties' Maximum Levies for 2010.

Council will meet again on Tuesday, August 25th, for the advertised Public Hearing of the proposed 2010 Budgets for Wabash County at 5:00 P.M. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, second floor of the Courthouse.

No other business, Council adjourned on a motion by Evans; his motion was seconded by Little and passed with a 7-0 vote.