

FEBRUARY 25, 2008

Wabash County Council met in regular session on Monday, February 25, 2008 in the Commissioners Meeting Room on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse. Prayer was offered by Jim Kaltenmark. Chairman Bob Fuller called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M., with six (6) members present: Dean Eppley, Bob Fuller, Gary Nose, Jim Kaltenmark, Mike Ridenour, and Ted Little. Claude Markstahler was absent. Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway recorded the minutes of the meeting.

The minutes of the January 28, 2008 were reviewed. Dean Eppley made a motion to approve with one typo error. The motion was seconded by Ridenour and approved by a 6-0 vote.

Bowen Center representatives: Jay Baumgartner, CPA SR VP – Financial Services, Kurt Carlson, President and CEO and Bill Stephan, presented the following information to the Council.

1. Carlson reviewed concerns with the New Federal Reduction Act that could lower staff and cause issue with funding for individuals with long term mental illness that live in residential programs in Wabash County. Carlson also stated there is a Senate Bill - 350, that could help to preserve the residential program. Carlson also discussed how money is matched per dollar with the State and how the matching could improve with Senate Bill 350 which is still being considered by the State.
2. Baumgartner reviewed the Bowen Center Annual Report for 2007. He stated that 1,287 clients were served in Wabash County last year. That would be 1 in 25 people in the County who used Bowen Center's Services. Also, 524 teens/children, used the Bowen Center Services this past year. Baumgartner stated Bowen Center also partners with White's Family and Residential Services and served another 380 young people at Whites.
3. Stephen discussed how he coordinates Bowen Center services with other community services, the Sheriff's department and local schools. Stephen discussed the importance of inpatient services and goals to help offset the cost of inpatient services this year.
4. Council expressed their frustration with the State mandated payment to Bowen from the County General Fund. Little stated he is grateful for all the services provided, but also stated that in the past, 3 or 4 years ago, our county employees went without raises due to the tight budget while Bowen's employees got good raises. Little stated he wanted to make sure that Bowen Center representatives are aware that the approximately \$157,000 what we are required to pay each

year is a large sum considering our resources. Little also asked that Bowen Center be sensitive to Wabash County's needs and concerns in the future.

5. Sheriff Leroy Striker stated that Bowen Center does a great deal with clients in the jails. Striker also stated he felt Bowen was going in the right direction. Council expressed repeatedly how much the services provided by Bowen Center in Wabash County were appreciated.

Rachel Owens, Rural Community Assistance Program, presented information regarding the creation of a regional sewer district and sewer district committee in Laketon. Owens stated there were two phases to the project; the Planning Stage and the Construction phase. She stated she would help the Laketon Committee apply for a Grant to assist with engineering studies for this possible development. Owens said there is some opposition in the community who do not wish to be apart of this plan and there would be two (2) public hearings for the community to discuss the issue. Council decided to have Owens present this before the Commissioners next week for them to review and consider.

The next order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation requests as advertised for Additional Appropriations Ordinance 2008 NO. II:

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE 2008 NO. II**

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	Amount	AYE
NAY	Requested	Appropriated	

**COUNTY GENERAL
County Commissioners**

0001-0029-01-413-074 Personal Services – Sheriff's Pension Fund	\$ 9,126.00	\$ 9,126.00	6
0 January 2008, 288 claims @ \$13.00 – Superior Court; 259 claims @ \$13.00 – Circuit Court, Clerk's Report, and Secretary's Report.			

Nose made a motion to approve the request as presented. It was seconded by Ridenour and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Sheriff

0001-0005-01-412-022 Personal Services – AAction Payroll	\$ 3,437.00	\$ 3,437.00	6
0 Money to be moved from the Drug Free Community AAction Grant Fund into an AAction Payroll line item in the Sherriff's County General Fund so earnings can be paid.			

Eppley made a motion to approve this request. It was seconded by Nose and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Coroner

0001-0007-03-431-012	Other Services and Charges – Autopsies		\$ 20,000.00	0
TABLED				
0001-0007-03-432-023	Other Services and Charges – Mileage	\$ 500.00	0	
TABLED				
0001-0007-03-435-025	Other Services and Charges – Cell Phones	\$ 500.00	0	
TABLED				
0001-0007-03-439-022	Other Services and Charges – Postage	\$ 25.00	0	
TABLED				
0001-0007-03-439-091	Other Services and Charges – Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 100.00	0	
TABLED				

Claims filed for payment in February 2008.

Marilyn McDonald Wabash County Coroner addressed the Council with her Additional Appropriation requests. Council was concerned with the charges by Life Med. Council would like some clarification on the agreement with Life Med and also would like to look into other services. Kaltenmark motioned to hold off on the Life Med bill and pay the other additional requests; but withdrew his motion. So, all requests were tabled, on a motion by Eppley, a second by Ridenour and a 6-0 vote, until the next Council meeting. McDonald stated she would look into other services available to Wabash County. Commissioner Lester Templin also stated a contract renewal is in progress with Life Med and concerns would be addressed.

COUNTY HEALTH FUND

0010-0000-01-421-021	Personal Services – Environmental Assistant	\$ 5,757.00	\$0.00	(DENIED)	6
0					

We are making a title change from Environmental Assistant to Deputy Administrative Coordinator. This position provides administrative support to the Food Environmental, Vital Records, and Nursing Divisions. The additional salary for this position will come from fees collected by the Food Division.

Council discussed a new committee that was formed recently to deal with the salary issues presented in this request and similar requests. Jim Dils, County Coordinator, is taking charge of setting a system for salary issues. Little made a motion to deny change of wages at present. His motion was seconded by Ridenour and passed by a 6-0 vote.

0010-0000-04-4444-042	Capital Outlay – Office Machines	\$ 1,107.00	WITHDRAWN	
-----------------------	----------------------------------	-------------	-----------	--

The Public Health Nurse must have a working computer to be able to access the state CHIRP program; this is with the Indiana State Department of Health.

E911 FUND

0054-0000-03-435-030	Other Services & Charges– Code Red Emergency Notification System	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 5,800.00	6
0				

Funds will be used to add the Severe Weather Warning feature to the CodeRed Emergency Notification system currently being used in Wabash County. The Weather Warning feature issues warning directly from the Weather Service to county residents who have enrolled for the warnings. The warnings included are Tornado Warnings, Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, and Flash Flood warnings. Persons notified will be in the polygon warning areas.

Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway presented the following Amended 2008 Salaries and Wages Ordinance reflecting actions of the January meeting for Council approval and signatures.

AMENDED
2008 SALARIES AND WAGES ORDINANCE
WABASH COUNTY

WHEREAS: Public Law No. 231 requires County Councils to fix salaries of County Officials and Employees for the year 2008:

SEC.1. Be it ordained by the Wabash County Council of Wabash County, Indiana, that the salaries and wages of County Officials and Employees and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2008 as follows:

Position	Department	Bi-Weekly	Annual
COUNTY GENERAL FUND			
COMMISSIONERS			
0001-0029-01-412-013	Commissioners' Attorney	\$0.00	\$0.00
0001-0029-01-412-022	Commissioners' Custodian	\$1,115.38	\$29,000.00
COURTHOUSE			
0001-0032-01-412-020	PT Custodian - D. Smith	\$0.00	\$0.00
JAIL			
0001-0033-01-412-020	Jail:PT Custodian - D. Smith	\$0.00	\$0.00
JUVENILE PROBATION FUND			
0061-0000-01-412-015	Day Reporting - T. Cavins	\$887.82	\$23,083.19

Approved on the 25th day of February, 2008.

Wabash County Council

Attest:
Jane E. Ridgeway
Wabash County Auditor

T.F. "Bob" Fuller
Mike Ridenour
Gary S. Nose
Ted A. Little
Dean Eppley
Claude Markstahler
James Kaltenmark

Council then discussed the need to move forward with paying the 2008 Budgeted Salaries and Wages for County Employees. Ridenour made a motion to reconsider the action of freezing wages at 2007 rates in 2008 on January 7, 2008. It was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 6-0 vote. Ridenour then made a motion to start paying 2008 Budgeted Salaries and Wages as adopted by the Council and to pay retroactively from January 1, 2008; this also includes anyone who has since left employment after January 1, 2008. It was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Nancy Radabaugh, County Extension Director, updated Council on the current status with Purdue Extension office openings. There are interviews set for March 13, 2008 for the position of retiring CED Nancy Radabaugh. The position ANR Extension Educator has not yet been filled. Radabaugh said candidates are being considered for the second position as well. Council reviewed how much Purdue pays on the positions in the Extension Office as compared to what Wabash County paid in the Purdue contract for 2007 as opposed to 2008. Council expressed a desire to know how this comparison is done in other counties. Radabaugh stated Teresa Witkoske, Consumer & Family Science Extension Educator, will continue to keep the Council updated on the new positions, interviews, and any concerns or questions in the future.

Auditor Jane Ridgeway informed Council that the Net Assessed Values for Wabash County Taxing Districts have been certified and presented a copy of the certificate of net assessed values 2007- 2008 to Council. Ridgeway also informed Council that the Homestead Rebate information was being reviewed by the Treasurer and should go to Boyce Forms for printing and mailed to Wabash County residents in the next two weeks. Ridgeway also stated she will be requesting an Additional Appropriation to cover the cost of the Homestead Rebate check processing for the Agreement the Commissioners signed with Boyce Forms.

No other business, Eppley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ridenour and the meeting adjourned on a 6-0 vote.

The next meeting will be held Monday, March 24, 2008 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room at the Wabash County Courthouse at 8:00 A.M.